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# THE GUARDIAN

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23p

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Jenkin scents victory after  
ILEA sets legal budget

## Rate-cap rebels in early reverse

By John Carvel, local government correspondent

The Inner London Education Authority last night denied the campaign against the Government's new rate-capping law by voting through a legal rate against the advice of its Labour leadership.

Labour councils had intended to show their resolve by refusing to make legal budgets at meetings which they had synchronised around the country for maximum political impact.

At the Greater London Council, a dissent was in prospect. Its meeting was postponed until today with no party or faction able to claim a majority for any proposal. The leader, Mr Ken Livingstone, predicted that a decision might not be reached until two minutes before the legal deadline at midnight on Sunday.

Almost all the lower-tier borough and district councils on Councils split, GLC sketch, Sheffield rebellion, page 2

The Government's bid-list were heading to pass motions saying that it was impossible to fix a rate at present within the maximum set by Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Secretary.

Liverpool council, which is not rate-capped but is subject to heavy grant cuts, voted last night to support the Government's controls.

It intends to ask the Government for more cash but last night Mr Jenkin wrote off the decision as a "political demonstration". He denied during a visit to the city that he was seeking revenge for last year's budget cuts but he warned that Liverpool would not be able to engage in another lengthy confrontation with the Government.

Sheffield and Leicester were among the first authorities to pass resolutions similar to Liverpool's.

The councils which refused to set rates did so in the knowledge that these decisions did not immediately put them outside the law and that there would be time if necessary to reverse them before

fore councillors became liable to surcharge and disqualification for wilful misconduct.

For this reason, attention was fixed on the upper-tier councils — the ILEA, the GLC, South Yorkshire and Merseyside — which have a statutory obligation to fix a rate by Sunday.

If a majority of councillors on these authorities had refused to fix a rate, they would have been immediately at risk.

South Yorkshire and Merseyside yesterday stuck to their previously announced intention to fix a legal rate, but contrived within that income to avoid spending cuts.

South Yorkshire set the legal maximum fixed by Mr Jenkin and Merseyside announced an 11 per cent increase instead of the 26 per cent rise which Mr Jenkin's limit would have allowed.

Merseyside's Labour group is refusing to reveal precise details of its spending plans or to explain how it proposes to get by with an income which appears to fall £29 million short of the Government-set target. The council will set up a special sub-committee to control the purse-strings and its Labour leader, Mr Kevin Coombes, pledges that it will not go into deficit.

Mr Jenkin last night praised the "great commonsense" of the authorities. "I am gratified that commonsense has prevailed," he said. "I am sure that the authorities will be able to make up any deficit."

He was surprised, he added, that ILEA had made a rate because there had been determined attempts not to do so. However, he decided to commit himself to lower expenditure than anticipated was open to legal challenge, he felt. The county had only a year to run under Government abolition plans and the area's five district councils would have to make up any deficit.

The GLC budget meeting, scheduled for yesterday afternoon, was postponed because the ILEA meeting in the same council chamber overran its allotted time.

Mr Jenkin said that the key meeting to test the capacity of the law to reverse them before

## London bombers get five life sentences

By Paul Keel

TWO BELFAST men who took part in an IRA bombing campaign in London were each given five life sentences yesterday by an Old Bailey judge who recommended that they should serve a minimum of 25 years each.

Sentencing Paul Kavanagh and Thomas Quigley, both 28, Mr Justice McCowan told them that it was his duty to express in the sentences the horror that society felt at the nature of their crimes.

The two had been found guilty of murdering two civilians and passing by in a nail-bomb attack at Chelsea Barracks in October 1981 and a bomb disposal officer in an explosion at an Oxford Street Wimpy bar in the same month.

They were also convicted of causing explosions at an Oxford Street store and at the home of Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney-General.

Quigley and Kavanagh were also found guilty on two and four charges respectively of possessing firearms and explosives. Quigley was given two 20-year sentences on these charges, Kavanagh two of 20 years and two of 25 years.

Referring to the booby-trapped bomb which was placed at the Wimpy bar and the carnage of the Chelsea Barracks attack, Mr Justice McCowan told the two, who refused to stand up in the dock as they were sentenced: "You showed not a spark of compassion for these people. You cannot therefore be surprised if society thinks you are not fit to be at liberty for a very long time to come."

Also sentenced with them was Natalino Vella, aged 31, who had been found guilty of causing explosions at the Chelsea Barracks and the Wimpy bar. He was given a 20-year sentence.

Vella, the court was told by Mr Justice McCowan, was "a man of great courage and determination" who had been found guilty of causing explosions at the Chelsea Barracks and the Wimpy bar.

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BOMBERS' TRAIL: The IRA messenger, Natalino Vella (left), who unwittingly led police to the arms cache (below), which resulted in life sentences for bombers Thomas Quigley (top) and Paul Kavanagh (above, right).



Chance find led to bombers, page 4

## Officials blame weather for small drop in jobless figures

By Christopher Huhne, Economics Editor

Unemployment fell by 17,282 last month, a much smaller drop than was officially expected for several reasons. The Department of Employment yesterday estimated that the seasonally-adjusted rise was nearly 20,000 for the second successive month.

Officials blamed severe February weather for what looks like a dispiriting reversion to the sharp underlying rises of last summer, and said that adult unemployment was probably still growing by 10,000 to 12,000 a month.

The number of unemployed is put at 3,323,676 in February, after a fall in jobless adults of 5,598 and in unemployed school leavers of 11,884. The unemployment rate is 13.7 per cent.

The Prime Minister told MPs at Commons question time after the figures were released.

Leader comment, page 14; Agenda Extra, page 10.

released: "The Government has achieved record output, record standard of living and record investment — and that's a very strong economy".

The Labour leader, Mr Neil Kinnock asked her: "Do you propose to continue with the policies which have increased unemployment already by two million, and will certainly bring even higher jobless totals if they go on?"

Mrs Thatcher quoted the policy of the former Labour chancellor, Mr Denis Healey who had said: "I believe the answer to the economic problems which have dogged Britain is to improve performance of manufacturing industry: higher productivity, better design, more vigorous salesmanship and more reliable delivery and salesmanship."

Mr Kinnock said: "It was convincing then. From you it is utterly unconvincing now."

Ms will debate unemployment on Monday under a Labour motion demanding a change of economic policy.

Mr Tom King, the Employment Secretary, said that economic growth could quicken, offering improved prospects for those seeking jobs, now that the miners' strike had ended. The dispute had been a "major handicap" to full recovery of the economy.

Vacancies at Job centres fell in February but Mr King pointed to overtime at the highest level for five years, a fall in redundancies, and an estimated 340,000 increase in the number of jobs in the year to September.

However the increase in employment is partly estimated by the Employment Department and many of the new jobs have gone to part-time women previously excluded from the Government's definition of the unemployed as only those claiming benefit.

The Independent Unemployment Unit estimated that the old basis of counting all those who registered as unemployed would have shown a total of 3,719,100 and made a rate of about 15 per cent.

This includes an estimate for some elderly people taken out of the count by the offer of special benefits.

The official rise in the sea-

Turn to back page, col. 4



Tom King — offered improved prospects

## NUM levy plan to help sacked strikers

By Keith Harper, Labour Editor

The reluctance of the National Union of Mineworkers to hold a ballot over the past year was overcome yesterday when its leadership decided to ballot its 188,000 members on a 50p-a-week levy to support colleagues dismissed during the strike.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM president, did not mention the ballot after the first post-strike meeting of the executive in Sheffield yesterday.

It emerged later that it will be conducted on March 21 and 22, that it will be at the pit-head unless the National Coal Board raises objections, and that the levy will continue for an indefinite period.

The ballot will be the first to be held in the union since the Peter Heathfield was elected the NUM's general secretary early last year.

A simple majority of the union's membership will be required and if the move is approved, the money raised will be placed in a trust fund operated outside the union in order to prevent the cash from being sequestered.

The NUM has already appointed three trustees to run the fund. They are the Sheffield Labour MPs, Mr Richard Caborn and Mr Bill Michie, and Mr David Blunkett, leader of Sheffield council.

The feeling among most NUM leaders was that the £95,000 a week would be raised, and that those who worked during the dispute would pay it as conscience money.

But these are early, confusing days for the NUM executive, many of whom conceded yesterday that they could not

Turn to back page, col. 3

## Lonrho closer to Fraser bid

By Geoffrey Gibbs

The possibility of a two-way fight for control of House of Fraser moved closer yesterday when the Monopolies and Mergers Commission ruled that a takeover of the company by Mr Tiny Rowland's Lonrho group would not be against public interest.

The findings, reversing a verdict four years ago, were immediately attacked by the Fraser board, which only this week backed a £615 million takeover bid from the Egyptian brothers, Mohamed, Ali and Salah Al Fayed.

There are more U-turns in the report than a London tax

driver performs in Oxford Street," Fraser chairman Professor Roland Smith said.

Lonrho still has one hurdle to clear before it can launch a

Clean bill of health for Tiny, page 18; City Notebook, page 17

rival offer. As a result of the 1981 Commission report, the group undertook not to increase its Fraser shareholding above 29.9 per cent.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Trade and Industry Secretary, will rule next week whether Lonrho can be released from the undertaking, and will an-

nounce, whether the Al Fayed bid will be considered by the Monopolies Commission.

Lonrho — "delighted" at yesterday's verdict — immediately urged an investigation of the Al Fayed bid.

Mr Paul Spicer, a Lonrho director said: "If a British company should be investigated up hill and down dale and hounded and harried by every civil servant in Whitehall, they might just possibly cast an eye over these Egyptians that no one has ever heard of."

Mr Spicer acknowledged that the Al Fayed bid was well

Turn to back page, col. 7

## Rise in NHS charges

By our Political Editor

The Government is expected to announce a substantial increase in National Health Service prescription and dental charges on Monday.

The Social Services Secretary, Mr Norman Fowler, is understood to have won the approval of fellow ministers for the announcement at a Cabinet meeting yesterday. Mr Fowler said he had opted for a prescription charge of £1.90 rather than £2, "only for cosmetic reasons."

Whichever sum has been chosen, no attempt was being made in Whitehall last night to deny that the increase from £1.60 will be well ahead of the rate of inflation.

## Surrogate agencies face ban

By Colin Brown, Political Staff

Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, announced yesterday that a bill would be introduced into the Commons before Easter to outlaw commercial surrogate mother agencies.

The short bill, which was warmly welcomed by a sides in the Commons, will ban agencies from recruiting women as surrogate mothers, prohibit all forms of advertising for their services, and make it a criminal offence to run agencies.

The Cabinet has decided to act after public concern over the first baby born in Britain through a surrogate agency based in the United States. Baby Cullen was later taken to the US by its parents.

Mr Fowler stressed that

other issues raised by surrogate clinics involving the legal status of the children and the involvement of the medical profession in facilitating surrogate arrangements would have to be tackled in a later, more comprehensive bill on the Warnock report.

The committee, chaired by Lady Warnock, which carried out a wide-ranging review of human fertilisation and embryology, recommended a ban on commercial surrogate clinics, but also expressed concern about surrogate arrangements generally.

Mr Fowler appeared to indicate yesterday that the Warnock bill, which could be introduced in the next session of Parliament, may include a general ban on all forms of surrogacy.

By allowing a free vote on the measure, Mr Fowler would

leave it up to backbenchers to move such a clause.

Mr Fowler conceded yesterday that there would not be a consensus for a total ban on surrogacy, but said that the Government wanted to act quickly on a "well-defined evil" — the commercial clinics — on which there was an agreement for a ban.

There could still be loopholes in the law, British couples are able to use surrogate clinics in the US and on the Continent, while the possibility of arranging surrogacy in exchange for gifts, rather than commercial fees, may prove difficult to stop.

In addition, babies due to be born under the existing arrangements will not be covered by the bill, but are sure to be covered with more than usual public interest.

Parliament, page 9

## Post Office dispute looms

By Michael Smith, Industrial Editor

Senior executives of the Post Office are seeking an urgent meeting with trade union leaders in an attempt to avert a growing crisis between management and workers which threatens the first serious national postal dispute in over 10 years.

Sir Ron Dearing, the Post Office chairman, and Mr Kenneth Young, his industrial relations director, are expected to lead the talks next week with Alan Tiffin, general secretary of the Union of Communications Workers, who represents 150,000 postal employees.

Industrial relations at the Post Office have sunk following moves by the management to introduce new work practices, more part-time staff and newer technology.

While the union is adamant that change can only come about with the cooperation of workers, the executive has been seriously hampered in its ability to negotiate directly with Post Office management because the union's power rests with the membership and not its executive officers.

This week, a special three-day conference at Bourne-mouth failed to provide Mr Tiffin and his executive with the authority to negotiate the Post Office proposals directly with management.

The conference came down particularly strongly against the plans to increase the use of part-time staff and proposed new working methods for sorting and delivery staff.

Last night, Sir Ron said he had received no formal reports on the outcome of the conference but added: "It is clear from what we have heard that in some respects there have been serious disappointments and setbacks."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Kidnap deaths

SIX tourists kidnapped in Zimbabwe in 1982 were killed three days later by rebels, the prime minister, Robert Mugabe said yesterday. Page 8

### The Guardian

AFTER almost three years of stability, the price of The Guardian will move to 25p from next Monday. We regret the rising costs of raw materials — in particular of newsprint — influenced by the weakness of the pound against the dollar — which makes this step necessary.



Nuclear case

THE CEBG chairman, Sir Walter Marshall (above), told the final day of the Sizewell inquiry yesterday that the miners' leader, Arthur Scargill had shown the need for more nuclear power more effectively than the electricity industry could have done. Back page, Nuclear power in the Mailings, page 13.

### Lebanon clash

ISRAELI tanks yesterday crossed their new front line in south Lebanon and shelled Lebanese army positions. Page 8, Leader comment, page 14.

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"I work for M15, and you're even more boring in person than you are on the phone."

**The weather**  
Some cloud and rain. Details, back page.

## No change in Warsaw Pact terms

By Hella Pick

The Soviet Union and its six East European allies are to renew their defensive treaty, the Warsaw Pact, for another 20 years, and without any changes to the terms.

This was indicated by the Hungarian Foreign Minister, Mr Peter Varkonyi, in London, and ends speculation that the East Europeans might assert themselves by obtaining a shorter renewal period or changes in the treaty to give them more equal status with the Soviet Union. The treaty expires at the end of May.

The renewed treaty will bind the Soviet Union and Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Romania at least until 2005.

Mr Varkonyi, who ended a three-day visit to London yesterday, indicated that the Warsaw Pact countries had now reached consensus on all matters concerning the renewal of the treaty.

He appeared to surprise the Foreign Secretary with the news that the Hungarian leader, Mr Janos Kadar, had accepted an invitation for an official visit to Britain.

Mrs Thatcher welcomed the Hungarian leader to come here when she saw Mr Varkonyi at Downing Street yesterday, shortly before he left for Budapest. She established a good personal relationship with Mr Kadar when she visited Hungary last year.

Mrs Thatcher told Mr Varkonyi yesterday that Britain was anxious to improve East-West relations, and was deeply concerned that agreements should be achieved at the Geneva arms talks.

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# 'Soft' money buys Guy's heart unit one year's grace



John James: onus on the rich to step in

By Andrew Veitch, Medical Correspondent  
MORE than 100 heart patients will owe their lives over the next year to the fortuitous arrival of a copy of the Daily Telegraph on the veranda of the winter retreat in Florida of the millionaire philanthropist, Mr John James.

His donation of £272,000 to the cardiac surgery unit at Guy's Hospital, London — prompted by a premature report in the newspaper of the unit's closure — will enable Mr Alan Yates and his team of surgeons to carry on operating for another 12 months.

Without that money, they would have had to close the

unit for between 10 and 16 weeks next financial year to allow the local Lewisham and Southwark health authorities to recoup costs incurred because the surgeons have treated more than their budgeted quota of patients.

The closure would have meant, according to the authorities' figures, that 180 open heart operations would not have been carried out. As many as 100 of these patients might not have survived.

Health officials were much relieved yesterday that one of their number would no longer have to be detailed to the 12 hours of the operating theatres at Guy's — Mr Yates had sworn to continue

working until he was locked out.

But, Mr Peter Le Fleming, the South-East Thames regional general manager, immediately began preparing for the day when the James money runs out. "The gift is very generous and greatly appreciated," he said. "But it only provides a breathing space."

Dr David Sutton head of Guy's cardiology unit said: "It's a marvelous gesture. The people who will really be thanking Mr James are the patients whose operations would not otherwise have taken place."

"It's an enormous help in buying time to put right basic deficiencies. Ultimately

we have to look at what sort of health service we are willing to afford."

Health planners argue that so-called soft money, like the James benefaction, doesn't always buy time to sort out deficiencies — all too often it makes matters worse by diverting scarce resources into high-tech specialities that benefit relatively few patients.

The Government health cuts mean that in the four London regions any expansion of existing services — and open heart surgery is a prime example of a need unmet — can only be won at the expense of a reduction in some other service.

Unless, that is, doctors can attract money in terms of short-term grants and benefactions.

Once a service has been started or expanded on the basis of soft money, health planners come under great pressure to keep it going. It's far more difficult to justify withdrawing a service that has saved lives, however expensive it might be, than to avoid introducing a service that might in the future save lives.

Mr James, who also, saved the bone marrow transplant unit at Westminster Hospital with a £100,000 donation, said at his Florida home yesterday: "It seemed to me that there was a hospital waiting to do something that

## 50 theatres join condemnation of Arts Council

By Nicholas de Jongh, Arts Correspondent  
Fifty theatres throughout the country yesterday joined in an unprecedented vote of no confidence in the Arts Council.

They signed a statement accusing the council of maintaining "divisive policies" which were condemned as being "no longer representative of the needs of the subsidised theatre as a whole."

Signatories included the National and repertory companies in Manchester, Birmingham, Leicester, and Liverpool. The artistic directors of the theatres concerned are planning to call a national conference of all publicly-funded producing theatres on March 31, at the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester.

A campaign will be launched to initiate what is described as "a change in current government policy on funding the theatre."

On Wednesday in the Lords the Arts Minister, Lord Gower, held out no hope of any such change. At a time of reduction in public spending it would be extraordinary if the arts were to receive preferential treatment, he said.

It would be a case of the middle classes "promoting an area of the welfare state particularly attractive to them." He warned that as a culture minister it was his duty to "deliver a culture shock."

The party was not over, but the limits of hospitality had been reached. The National Theatre responded briefly yesterday to

the attack on it and its director, Sir Peter Hall, by Lord Gower in the Lords. Lord Gower had said that he knew many theatre directors who would like to have Sir Peter's budget of £8.7 million and "his terms and conditions of employment."

Did Sir Peter's theatre really need 50 permanent designers, he asked. A National spokesman said it had no designers on permanent contract, "and we have used 12 set and three costume designers in the last 12 months."

Sir Peter's salary two or three years ago, had been £47,000, less than that of Trevor Nunn, artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Sir Peter was allowed to leave the National for periods to do other work, but he was not paid his full salary while away. Details of his present salary were not available.

Lord Gower has announced two extensions to his business sponsorship incentive scheme in an effort to persuade more small and medium-sized businesses to invest in the arts.

Arts bodies which attract first-time sponsors will receive matching grants from the Government for amounts up to £25,000. Hitherto the Government was only willing to award arts bodies who attracted such sponsorship a third of the amount they received from private sources.

All sponsors may enrol for the Government's sponsorship scheme by contributing at least £3,000, instead of the previous £7,500.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Petrol set to rise by another 5p

PETROL prices are set to rise for a third time in a month to a fraction under £2 a gallon. Esso, which announced a 5p rise to 198.6p from midnight last night.

### Seamen ordered off ship

SIX Yugoslav seamen, occupying their abandoned ship at Tilbury Dock, Essex, in protest at not being paid for 20 months, were yesterday ordered to leave the vessel by next Monday by a High Court judge in London.

### Sex attack child's parents win cash

THE PARENTS of a retarded and handicapped five-year-old girl who was sexually assaulted by a Liverpool City Council approved foster father have been awarded a "four figure sum" as compensation for their distress and concern, the council's solicitor said yesterday.

The foster parent, David Brewer, aged 29, of Netherley, was gaoled for nine months for two indecent assaults.

### Weather delays Antarctic rescue

BAD weather yesterday stopped helicopters rescuing Lieutenant Commander Clive Waghorn, who has been trapped for three days with a broken leg 2,500 feet up a mountain on Brabant Island in the Antarctic.

### 'Lady in the lake' jury out today

THE JURY in the Old Bailey "Lady in the Lake" trial will retire to consider its verdict this morning.

Peter Hoeg, aged 57, of Cranleigh, Surrey, denies murdering his wife, Margaret, whose body was found in West Water, in Cumbria. He admits obstructing a coroner and perjury relating to divorce proceedings.

### Water unions reject 4.75pc

UNIONS representing 25,000 water supply and sewerage workers yesterday rejected a pay offer of 4.75 per cent on basic rates. The offer was set by the National Water Board.

### Injunction stays on Private Eye

THE COURT of Appeal yesterday dismissed an appeal by Private Eye against an injunction granted to the former Conservative Party chairman, Mr Cecil Parkinson, and is secretary, Mrs Angela Mathew, halting distribution of the latest edition of the magazine.

### Zambia diplomat remanded

Godfrey Lubunga, aged 27, a diplomat at the Zambian Embassy in London was remanded in custody to March 15, yesterday, when he appeared in Uxbridge magistrates court accused of being illegally concerned in the import of two kilograms of heroin.

### Collier launched for CEBG

THE FIRST of three 19,000 tonne colliers was launched at Govan Shipbuilders yesterday. They will transport three million tonnes of coal a year between the Tyne and the Thames power stations in the Tames estuary.

## Councils split on setting rates

By Alan Dunn  
Merseyside county council's Labour leaders quickly avoided an immediate legal confrontation with the Government yesterday over its budget policies by setting a rate of 11 per cent.

But downstairs, in the same building, Liverpool Town Hall, the city council's Labour leaders took more than four hours of highly-charged shouting to agree to resume hostilities later with no commitment to a rate.

All oil companies are expected to follow market leader Esso, which announced a 5p rise to 198.6p from midnight last night.

Mr Tony Byrne, the city council finance chairman, called the Environment Secretary, Mr Patrick Jenkin, a "deliberate and calculating liar" and the city's Labour leader, Mr John Hamilton, urged Mr Jenkin to "come out of your corner into Liverpool and fight for the needs of the people of the city."

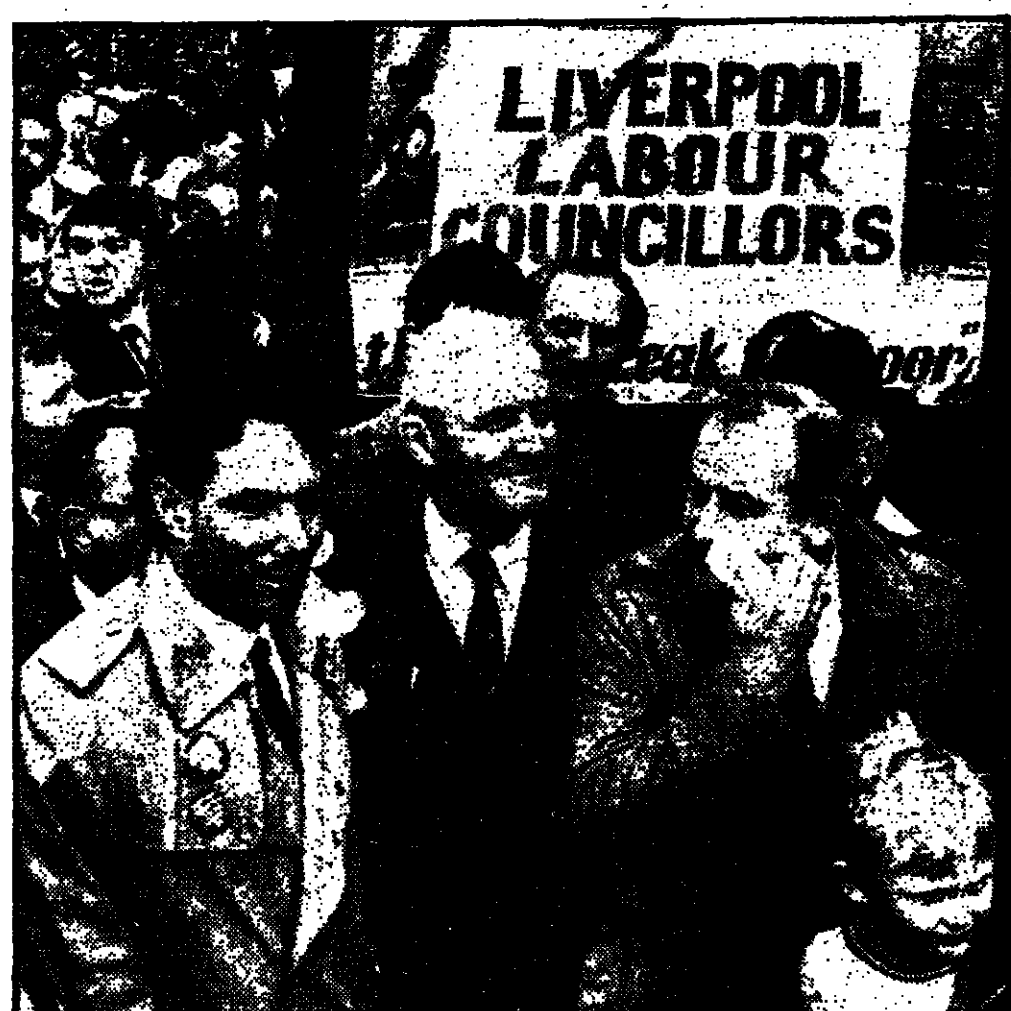
Merseyside's leader, Mr Keva Coombes, had not wanted to set a rate. He denied suggestions that there had been calls within his group for his resignation after winning support for 11 per cent and "realistic" expenditure of £213 million. Mr Neville Goldring, the Tory leader, asked why there had been a U-turn when Labour's expenditure target was reduced from £242 million after the government had set a rate rise limit of 27 per cent.

Mr Coombes, after accusing Mr Jenkin of seeking revenge on Merseyside for having lost the political and propaganda battle with Liverpool last year, said that the decision was an act of faith in the hope that there would be no sabotage by the minister.

Rate penalties could have been avoided if Government departments spoke with one voice over police expenditure, he said. The Home Office had approved the police budget, but the Environment Department sought cuts of £16 million.

The police and transport budgets will for the first time be liable to a spending scrutiny by a special committee of two: Mr Coombes and his deputy.

But Mr Coombes set his face against cuts in jobs or services. The council would battle through the year to win further



Mr Tony Benn (centre) marching yesterday with Mr Derek Hatton (left), deputy leader of Liverpool City Council, and Mr Tony Mulhearn, chairman of the district Labour Party, before the council met and declined to fix a rate

resources from the Government "because that is what the voice of Liverpool is telling us to do."

Legal opinion had been sought on the council's standing should the spending level be too low in practice. "The chances of success in any challenge were very small indeed," said the council's solicitor.

Mr Goldring accused Labour of choosing to confront the Government rather than co-operating. The party was out of touch with reality, he said.

Mr Hamilton appealed for justice for the people of Liverpool.

Unemployment was due to economic decline not high rates. Mr Jenkin was throwing the law books at Liverpool, but the law never built houses for the homeless, produced meals for the hungry, provided work for the jobless, or education for the young.

The city needed £285 million to stand still but the Government limit was £222 million, said Mr Hamilton. He demanded that the Government restore more than £300 million of rate support grant "stolen" from the city in recent years.

Mr Trevor Jones, the city council's Liberal group leader, called on the council to make a rate and set up a public inquiry into how Labour was running the city. Mr Chris Hallows, the Tory leader, urged Labour to talk rationally to Mr Jenkin.

Soon after, we were almost adjourned again when another Labour member accused Sir Ashley Bramall, more accurately, of being a Tory. "Highly offensive," he said, "and it happens to be a damned lie."

A white-haired, upright man in his late sixties, Sir Ashley looked like a man who had strayed in accidentally from an earlier, more decorous age; which, in sense he had; he was one of Mr Attlee's backbenchers from 1946 to 1950 when he lost by 133 votes to the young Edward Heath.

"Will you be quiet!" he roared at one particularly obtrusive Labour interrupter: not the sort of talk we ever hear from Mr Weatherill over the water.

By now the co-optees had gone. We were in the proceedings of the Iles proper and all was subtly changed. Labour's Alex Mackay had come up with an amendment designed to reconcile the budget that the Labour member with a target the law now required.

It would give them legal-ity, in other words, but without £24 million-worth of cuts laid out in the officers' formula.

The claque in the gallery didn't like the look of that at all. "Surrender," they cried, as a succession of Labour members rose to support the formula, "hypocrites," "scabs."

Then Ken Livingstone declared for it. They heard him in near disbelief. He stated the whole idea of making a rate was to get the council to do the decent socialist thing.

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## Strike lingers on at five collieries in Scotland

By Jean Stead  
Although yesterday was officially the end of the miners' strike in Scotland, about 1,000 miners at five collieries were still out last night and fresh disputes were brewing throughout the coalfield.

The National Coal Board said 9,553 miners were back at work, an estimated 80 per cent of those employed. Meetings will be held over the next few days at the pits still on strike to decide whether there should be an organised return on Monday. The miners are likely to decide to go back.

The five include Polmaise in Shropshire, where the strike in Scotland began. Miners there have been unanimous in refusing to return until the threat of closure is lifted.

But if miners at three neighbouring collieries supplying the Longannet power station decide on Sunday to return Polmaise will go with them, even though the colliery is, in effect, closed.

If the Polmaise resistance ends, that would be the end of the strike in Scotland. The Polmaise banner has been prominent at every demonstration and outside nearly every colliery during the strike.

Polmaise is one of the five pits nationally which under the NCB's agreement with the deputies' union, Nacods, is due to come under the new colliery

review procedure. But one strike committee member said yesterday that he did not expect the procedure to be operating until June, by which time the pit would be closed.

Polmaise, employs 200 miners, 14 of whom have been dismissed. It has a strong argument against closure: about £18 million was invested in opening new faces but was stopped at the end of 1983 with \$6 million still due to be spent when geological faults were found.

The miners are convinced they are victims of NCB management muddle, and that the faults could be overcome. The Scots still on strike are protesting against the refusal by Mr Albert Wheeler, the Scottish area director, to grant an annex to the 180 miners dismissed during the dispute.

The strangest scenes on the official return to work day was at the Polkemmet Colliery, which in normal times supplied the Ravenscraig steel-works with almost all its coal.

At dawn, pipers in kilts played Scotland the Brave and led the miners into the colliery with the dismissed men at the head of the procession; but there was only safety work. Polkemmet has long been almost totally flooded and without investment which now seems unlikely, will never open again.

## Lodging cuts delayed

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent  
Mr Tony Newton, the Social Security Minister has postponed plans to ban most under-18s from claiming social security for board and lodging and cut payments to the elderly and handicapped admitted to private homes.

The new rules will not now come into force on April 1 because ministers have failed to agree the revised regulations in time to lay them before the Commons.

The decision means that Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, will not receive the full benefit of the £70 million social security savings he was promised by Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, in November.

The main reason for the delay appears to be the weight of opposition to the proposal. A total of 520 submissions were made to the Social Security Advisory Committee, the government's benefit watchdog. Charley sells home, page 3.

## Thousands cheer city's rebellion

By James Lewis  
Thousands of demonstrators stood and applauded outside Sheffield Town Hall yesterday as the Labour-controlled city council rejected a rate increase by 59 votes to 26 to defy the Government by refusing to levy a rate for the coming year.

Some 15,000 people converged in Peace Square to demonstrate against rate-capping and grant penalties. They listened as speeches were relayed to them from the chamber.

The Reverend Alan Billings, chairman of the budget committee, told the council that because of rate-capping there was a gap of £31 million between a standstill budget of £240 million and income from grants and rates of £218 million.

To take any more than £12 million from reserves would lead to serious cash flow problems and would still leave an impossible gap of £19 million to bridge.

Sheffield's spending since 1980 had done no more than keep pace with inflation, he said, but the city had become an arbitrary victim of rate-capping, which was a vindictive and spiteful fine on its rate-payers because they had had the temerity to vote Labour.

Mr David Blunkett, the council's Labour leader, said it was impossible to make a rate that

would comply with the Government's spending targets and by refusing to make the attempt, Sheffield would be making a clear and unequivocal stand for local democracy.

"We are proud of what we have achieved in this city and we will stand by the trust placed in us by the people," he said.

It was not Labour's intention to infringe the law. "The law is there to uphold our rights. All we are doing is asking Patrick Jenkin to sit down with us and, like a reasonable statesman, remove our penalties, restore our grants and see to it that we are not in this position again."

Mr David Heslop, the Conservative leader, argued that the Government was entitled to demand cuts in local spending and claimed that savings of £22 million could be made without seriously damaging services.

"You will not make them," he told the Labour benches, "because you are hell-bent on expansion and are only interested in breaking the Government."

Members of the council have been warned by the chief executive, Sir Ian Podmore, that they risk surcharges, bankruptcy, banning from public life and possibly even imprisonment by refusing to comply with the rating law.

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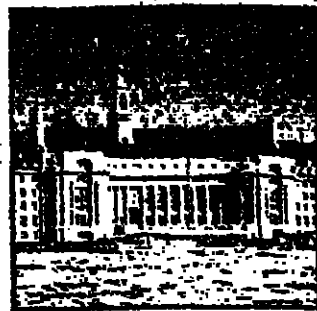
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David McKie

## Spitting and then splitting images

PEOPLE who find the Conservative Party's brutal confrontation for their tastes would do well to keep away from County Hall. Compared to some of the proceedings at the Inner London Education Authority meeting yesterday, even Prime Ministers' Questions is a feast of convivial charm.

Of course this was an especially fraught occasion. The meeting had to decide whether to join the contingent of Labour-controlled authorities which were resolving up and down the country yesterday to march boldly across the frontier into illegality by refusing to make a legal rate.

The meeting of Ilea's Education Committee, all the authority members, plus some co-opted extras, which opened the day's play had three escape routes preferred to it: a Tory budget, an SDP budget and a budget put up by the officers.

But it was clear from the start that most of those present were determined not to bow the knee to Patrick Jenkin.

What was more, the public gallery, which made its feelings noisily known all day — cheering, jeering, and sometimes arguing with the speakers — didn't intend to do so either; and soon after lunch it got the verdict it wanted: all three legal formulas rejected.

At the height of the day's exchanges, the atmosphere seemed to owe as much to a boxing match as to a real life. At one point, Labour's Lesley Hammond accused a Tory front bench of having a tape recorder running in his pocket.

Not true, he said; for one thing, he couldn't afford one. His neighbour had got one though, and even held it up, but as it wasn't working.

"Check it," Labour member instructed the chairman; but he thought that was going too far.

In mid-afternoon the meeting had to be adjourned after Labour leader Frances Morrell persisted with a "point of personal explanation" which the chairman — Sir Ashley Bramall, also Labour — said was a speech.

Soon after, we were almost adjourned again when another Labour member accused Sir Ashley Bramall, more accurately, of being a Tory. "Highly offensive," he said, "and it happens to be a damned lie."

A white-haired, upright man in his late sixties, Sir Ashley looked like a man who had strayed in accidentally from an earlier, more decorous age; which, in sense he had; he was one of Mr Attlee's backbenchers from 1946 to 1950 when he lost by 133 votes to the young Edward Heath.

"Will you be quiet!" he roared at one particularly obtrusive Labour interrupter: not the sort of talk we ever hear from Mr Weatherill over the water.

By now the co-optees had gone. We were in the proceedings of the Iles proper and all was subtly changed. Labour's Alex Mackay had come up with an amendment designed to reconcile the budget that the Labour member with a target the law now required.

It would give them legal-ity, in other words, but without £24 million-worth of cuts laid out in the officers' formula.

The claque in the gallery didn't like the look of that at all. "Surrender," they cried, as a succession of Labour members rose to support the formula, "hypocrites," "scabs."

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**OUT NOW**



# Father 'killed Down's syndrome baby he spurned'

By a Staff Reporter

Down's syndrome baby Louise Brown was killed at 14 days old by her father Paul Brown because he could not accept her handicap, an Old Bailey jury was told yesterday.

The child's mother Susan Pullen had accepted the child but despite her hysterical protests at the time of the alleged murder she had since done everything she could to protect her husband, said Mr Roy Amlot, prosecuting.

Louise's death, he said, Paul Brown, aged 30, a roofing contractor of Tierney Road, Streatham, south London, pleaded not guilty to Louise's murder between May 25 and 28, 1984. Ian Brown, aged 33, of Streatham Common North, pleaded not guilty to assisting his brother by concealing Louise's body.

Both men and the two women denied conspiring together to pervert the course of justice by making false statements to conceal the death of Louise.

The child's body has never been found. Mr Amlot said Paul Brown and Susan Pullen were not married but had lived together

for some time and had a two-year-old daughter, Kelly. On May 13 last year Ms Pullen had a second daughter at St Thomas's Hospital, London. It was immediately obvious to the nursing staff that the child had Down's syndrome.

He said that many parents employed long and loving relationships with such children but if parents could not manage there were societies which would take on the responsibility.

"There is, of course, no justification in law or humanity to deprive such children of life."

It was not suggested that Louise's mother had done so and there was strong evidence that she had developed a loving

bond with the child from birth.

"The allegation that the Crown makes is that a fortnight later the father had a lot to drink and killed the baby against the mother's hysterical protest. Everything she had done since has been to protect her husband and it is difficult not to feel sympathy in this case."

Mr Amlot said that from the beginning Paul Brown refused to accept his baby.

May 26, four days after the baby was taken home, was the last time an independent person saw Louise alive. On May 28 Paul Brown telephoned the police and said that his car had been stolen from outside a

shop in Battersea and the baby was in the back.

Two hours later the car was discovered in Chelsea, but there was no baby or cot. Despite a big search and publicity, no trace of the baby was found.

Paul Brown had made a statement saying that on Saturday May 26 he had been for a drink at lunch time, watched television in the afternoon at his brother's home and then gone home.

On Sunday he had gone to Brighton for the day with Ms Pullen and two children. They had eaten sandwiches on the front and returned home again because it was raining.

These accounts did not tally

with those of witnesses. According to a fellow roofer he and Paul Brown had spent the afternoon drinking at Ian Brown's home and then gone on to a pub in Balham where they had stayed until closing time.

Paul Brown had been left in the care of the landlord because he was so drunk and the landlord had driven him home.

A neighbour had been woken just before 2 am by hysterical screaming. It lasted about five seconds, was followed by loud shouting, immediately followed again by screaming. At the same time there was vibration of someone

stopped to be replaced by very loud sobbing. There were six gasps of breath and what sounded like the voice of Susan Pullen. Later the neighbour heard the street door open, later the doorbell rang and there were footsteps on the stairs.

Another neighbour had also been woken by screams. She thought she heard the woman scream "Don't" or "Don't do that."

Mr Amlot said the couple denied that any such incident occurred but the prosecution alleged that this was the moment that Louise was killed. "Drink no doubt played a part in the way he behaved."

The trial continues.

## Holiday surcharge 'not justified'

By Rosemary Collins

Holiday surcharges are largely unjustified, and tour operators could cut them out if they wanted to, the Consumers Association says today. Rumours within the travel trade suggest that this summer most holidays will cost more than their brochure prices. Few companies are offering no-surcharge guarantees.

The association says that "there is absolutely no reason why summer brochure prices should be based, as almost all are, on the value of sterling in July the previous year."

"Some brochures are produced in September, but others do not come out until just before Christmas, by which time the July rates are out of date."

Many operators claim that surcharges are based on the cost of aircraft fuel, which is priced in US dollars. Since last July the pound has fallen about 17 per cent against the dollar, but the association points out that fuel accounts for only a small part of the cost of a holiday.

Fuel price increases should not give rise to a surcharge of more than around £10 on a typical Mediterranean package holiday, it claims.

The other variable cost is the exchange rate between sterling and the currency of the country where a holiday will be spent.

This year surcharges based on these exchange rates might be levied for holidays to Spain or Italy, since the percha has risen against the pound by 8 per cent since last July, and the lire by 6 per cent.

"But these surcharges should not be enormous, either," says the association.

## Shake-up 'will damage disease detection without saving cash'

By Andrew Veitch, Medical Correspondent

Britain's disease surveillance system will be severely damaged if the Government disbands the Public Health Laboratory Service, its chairman, Dr Gordon Smith, said yesterday.

His warning follows the Guardian's disclosure yesterday that officials of the Department of Health and Social Security, instructed by ministers to find ways of cutting the National Health Service budget, want the PHLS to hand over its 52 peripheral laboratories to local health authorities.

Dr Smith, dean of London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said: "It would deprive us of the network which detects new and old diseases, and changes in resistance to antibiotics, and enables us to bring together information on diseases throughout the country."

Officials say the cut, recommended in a 218-page report due to go out for consultation next month, would save more than £11 million, more than a quarter of the PHLS budget.

However, Dr Smith said: "Unless laboratories are told to stop doing some of the net effect on the NHS budget will be zero."

"If we do not have peripheral laboratories, we will have to employ extra staff at headquarters to act as legmen going around the laboratories picking up information. We have a statutory duty to control infectious diseases. We can't sit back and hope that the local district microbiologist will ring us."

The recommendation to cut the service comes as diseases of poverty, like food poisoning and dysentery, are spreading. Government figures show that the number of people suffering from food poisoning rose by 3,000 in 1984, nearly 22,000 last year. The

number of dysentery cases has almost doubled to 7,600 in the past two years.

A PHLS team is responsible for monitoring AIDS. The number of cases has more than doubled to 132 in the past six months with a projected 400 cases by the end of the year. Antibiotic-resistant infections are increasing in hospitals and there are continuing outbreaks of viral meningitis.

The network of laboratories tests about six million samples a year from hospitals, GPs, environmental health officers, dentists, and vets. The information is fed to headquarters in Colindale north London, to be checked against bacteria and viruses.

Another PHLS branch, the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre, relies on this information to provide the Department of Health with a weekly national picture of infectious diseases.



Staff wheeling a London policeman, stabbed in a sweetshop raid last month, from King's College Hospital, Camberwell, to an ambulance yesterday. PC George Hammond was moved to the private Cromwell Hospital, Earl's Court, because King's, an NHS hospital, cannot afford a computerised body scanner.

## Charity selling home to reduce deficit

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent

The Jewish Welfare Board is selling a home for the elderly and mentally disturbed because the charity has a deficit of £810,000.

It blamed the decision on spending cuts by the Department of Health and Social Security and lack of support from the general public. The board said yesterday that the £810,000 deficit, on a budget of £3.1 million a year, was the first since the charity was set up in 1859.

Mr Melvyn Carlowe, its director, blamed the financial crisis on a series of decisions taken by Dr Rhodes Boyson, the former social security minister, and his successor, Mr Tony Newton.

He said these problems had been heightened by a lack of support from the Jews who contribute only 13 per cent of the funds spent on looking after elderly Jewish families.

Mr Carlowe said: "Many of the residents receive social security payments... which are essential to provide a high standard of care for the very elderly people who live in the board's 13 homes. The average age of residents is 88."

Dr Boyson's decision last September to freeze all board

and lodgings payments meant that instead of expecting an increase to £200 a week per person, payments remained at £185 a week.

"Mr Newton's decision to reduce charges to between £120 and £140 a week from next month will mean that any new admissions will be at a lower rate."

"This has been the main reason why we have had to think of selling to close a £3.1 million deficit."

Mr Carlowe said that the charity was also facing a reduction in local authority support with the London Borough of Haringey and Lancashire County Council deciding to stop funding the charity from April 1 because of cuts in their rate support grant.

In addition to selling the home — Fenton House in the London Borough of Haringey — the charity was also closing a kosher meals service in Stanmore, Middlesex, cutting social worker support, and cutting maintenance spending on its remaining 11 homes.

Mr Carlowe said even these savings would only cut the deficit to £450,000. He was planning to launch an appeal for more support from the Jewish community.

## Students split over bar on Jewish society

By Andrew Moncur, Education Staff

Attempts to persuade colleges around the country to condemn Sunderland Polytechnic students, for preventing the creation of a Jewish society, have failed to gain total support.

The National Union of Students' executive, strongly opposed the Sunderland decision in January.

Since then there have been moves to isolate the polytechnic union by asking students elsewhere to support resolutions criticising its policy.

Most of the college unions which have debated the issue

have come out in support of the Jewish students.

But a smaller number — including City University, the University College of Swansea, and the School of Oriental and African Studies — have refused to adopt that line. Some have voted in favour of the Sunderland union's policy.

Leaders of the NUS will meet on Monday to decide what action should be taken against the Sunderland student body, to be put to the NUS conference later this month. One option to be considered is suspension.

Sunderland will not permit the formation of a Jewish society, whose aims include the promotion of Zionism. The student body has a policy which equates Zionism with racism.

## TUC warns on abortion

By John Ardill, Labour Correspondent

The appeal Court ruling against contraceptive advice and treatment for girls under 16 could encourage the revival of back-street abortions, Miss Ada Maddocks, the chairwoman of the TUC women's advisory committee, said yesterday.

The committee has tabled an emergency motion for next week's TUC women's conference at Southampton calling for a review of the law following the court ruling obtained by Mrs Victoria Gillick.

Miss Maddocks, health service national officer of the National and Local Government Officers' Association, said: "The ruling has placed many young women in danger of unwanted pregnancies. It is considered that this could bring back something that they

thought had disappeared, that is back-street abortions. The committee believes the ruling is detrimental to young women under 16 and a review of the law is long overdue."

The conference will also consider revised TUC reports on homeworking and health risks for working women.

The homeworking report calls for legislation to give a statutory definition of homeworking and to extend employment protection laws to those who work for others at home.

It also wants local authorities to register and supervise homeworkers, and urges unions to recruit and organise homeworkers. The health report urges unions to work to expand workplace health education projects for pregnant women, and to make breast and cervical cancer screening available for all working women.

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| 31-35  | £5.00                  | £6.20   | £7.60   | £10.80   | £14.00   |
| 36-40  | £5.40                  | £6.60   | £8.10   | £11.50   | £14.85   |
| 41-45  | £6.00                  | £7.20   | £8.90   | £12.50   | £16.00   |
| 46-50  | £6.90                  | £8.10   | £10.00  | £14.00   | £17.60   |
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# Chance arms find that led to the Provo bombers

Paul Keel reports on the mistakes that helped police to track down an IRA active service unit

FROM the day that two forest workers stumbled across an IRA arms dump in a Oxfordshire woodland in the autumn of 1982, two of the Provisional IRA's most experienced and trusted operatives were marked men.

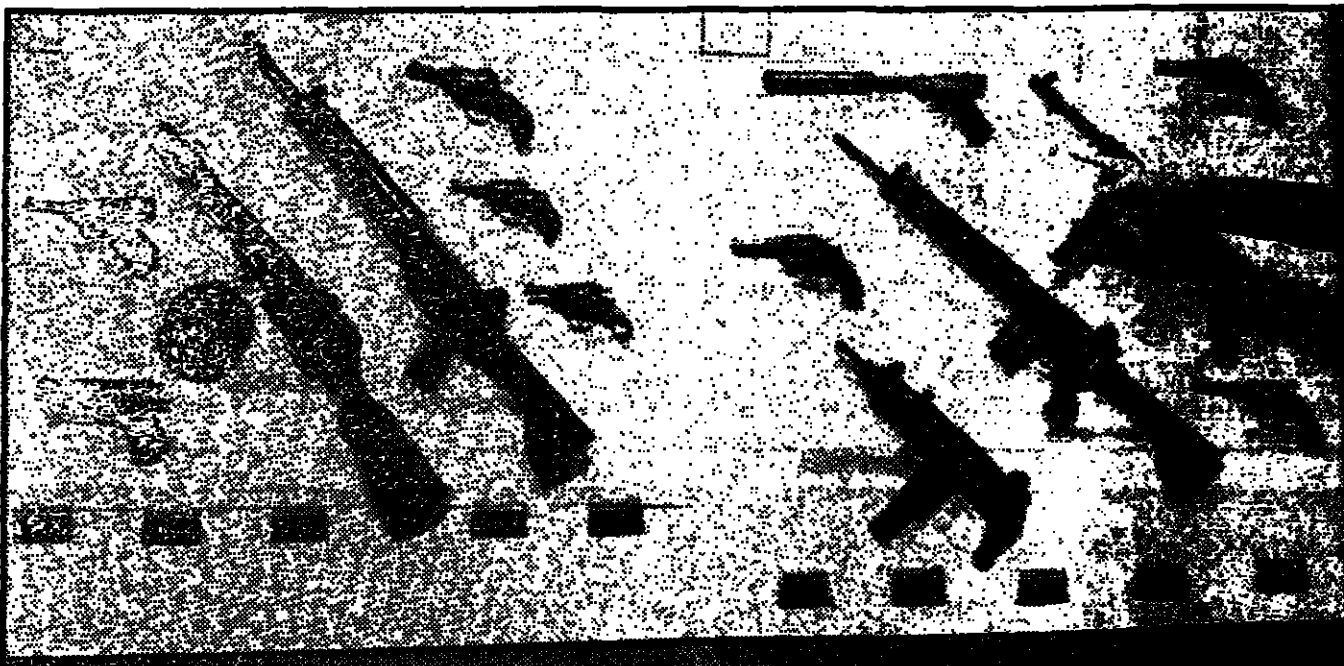
The cache of explosives, detonators and timing devices discovered in a Pangbourne wood read like an open book to forensic experts on how an IRA active service unit had staged a murderous bombing campaign in London two years earlier.

Even more significantly, the discovery opened a line of inquiry for the anti-terrorist squad that led to the unearthing of another IRA arms cache — the biggest ever found on the mainland — which almost certainly foiled a further campaign of violence here by the Provisionals.

The sudden ending of the IRA's brief but deadly bombing campaign in London in the autumn of 1981 appeared to indicate that another active service unit responsible for a series of attacks had fled the mainland after carrying out its instructions.

The campaign had begun days after the collapse of the hunger strike on October 3 at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland in which 10 Republican prisoners had fasted to death in an unsuccessful attempt to win political status from the British Government.

On the morning of Saturday, October 10, a Commer



CAPTURED CACHE: Commander Simon Crawshaw, of the Anti-Terrorist Squad, with the discovered IRA weapons.

van containing 30lb of explosives and 1,000 six-inch nails and bolts was detonated as a coach carrying members of the Irish Guards approached Chelsea Barracks.

The blast injured 23 of the soldiers and killed two civilian passers-by.

Six days later a car-bomb attempt was made on the life of Sir Stewart Pringle, the Commander-General of the Royal Marines. Soon afterwards the active service unit struck again.

On the afternoon of October 26, Mr Kenneth Howarth, an explosives expert, was blown up while trying to defuse a booby-trapped bomb in an Oxford Street Wimpy bar. A fortnight later a bomb went off at the Wimbledon home of Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney-General.

One problem facing Scotland Yard's CI3 branch — the anti-terrorist squad —

was that the IRA had made important structural changes in the active service units deployed on the mainland.

They no longer sent over a group of "sleepers" well in advance of a bombing campaign, who would keep in close contact with each other but lie low until they received their instructions from Belfast.

The IRA had begun organising its units on the cellular model adopted years before in Northern Ireland in order to limit the amount of damage that could be inflicted on themselves by the arrest of any one Provisional.

Just as in Ulster, where no single member of an active service unit would know the identity of more fellow terrorists than it was necessary for him to operate with, so the units now coming to

the mainland were being divided along the line of tasks. CI3 officers believe that the divisions occur between those responsible for reconnoitering targets; supplying and keeping explosives; making the devices; and those who carry out the attacks.

But after the 1981 campaign Paul Kavanagh, the head of the mainland unit and also its "quartermaster," made a fatal error.

He hid the materials used in the bombings, two sets of keys belonging to the Commander van and another vehicle used in the Chelsea Barracks attack and documents used for establishing false identities in one dump at Pangbourne. Even more incriminating, he left behind fingerprints.

Those prints were sent to the Royal Ulster Constabulary in Belfast whose Special

Branch matched two of the sets to two men whose remarkably similar backgrounds and activities were known to them.

Thomas Quigley and Kavanagh were born within three weeks of each other in the summer of 1955, both to staunchly Republican families in Belfast's Lower Falls.

Both joined the Provisional IRA's youth wing, Fionna Eireann, around 1972. Both had elder brothers who had been shot dead by the security forces. Both became members of the Provisional IRA's CI3 branch at the early 1980s. Kavanagh was sentenced to five years' imprisonment in 1973 for possession of a pistol.

After his release in 1976 he was known to have spent most of his time in the Republic and on the Continent where RUC sources be-

lieve, he made contact with other terrorist organisations and performed a number of propaganda exercises for the IRA.

Quigley was also sentenced to five years in Northern Ireland for armed robbery and possession of a firearm. An elder brother of his, Francis, was arrested in the Republic where he is now serving an eight year sentence for possessing explosives.

In the late 1970s, Quigley became involved with the widow of an IRA man who had blown himself up while making a bomb.

It was bomb-making that Quigley was suspected of and, the RUC believe, he was something of an innovator in the field of anti-handling devices, such as the one which took Kenneth Howarth's life in the Oxford Street bomb.

At Scotland Yard's request, Quigley was taken to Belfast by the RUC in December 1982 and handed over to London. Kavanagh's arrest occurred three months later, but before that took place he was unsuspectingly led to the anti-terrorist squad to the IRA arms cache.

It was during an undercover operation mounted by CI3 in January 1984 to watch Natalino Vella, an Irishman who had arrived in Britain from Dublin, that Kavanagh was spotted.

Vella had come to Britain to join Kavanagh and another two members of the active service unit to return to Belfast to explain why they had bombed Harrods.

Vella was also required to find the new mainland arms dumps — built up after the Pangbourne find — were stored, as he was to be quartermaster in Kavanagh's absence.

But Vella was under surveillance by CI3 from the moment he entered Britain and he and Kavanagh led their watchers to two woodland caches of weapons and explosives.

One, in Saley Forest, Northamptonshire, contained two 3mm sub-machine guns, an Armalite rifle, two Smith and Wesson hand guns, a .450 Smith and Wesson, three hand grenades and an assortment of bomb-making devices.

The two woodland caches, and the original Pangbourne, demonstrated the IRA's determination to continue attacks on mainland targets.

But the expressions of satisfaction on the faces of the CI3 and RUC officers at the end of yesterday's trial were less than complete.

They were aware, as the jury must have been, of another three members of the 1981 IRA active service unit, who were still at large. The trial was "suspects A, B and C" — who are still at large.

## IRA men in Maze told to run press campaign

By Bob Rodwell

Provisional IRA prisoners are running a propaganda campaign from within the Maze prison in support of Provisional Sinn Féin in Northern Ireland's local authority elections in May.

They are using a relaxation in prison regulations to bombard newspapers with letters of complaint touching every aspect of the prison system and in support of Sinn Féin work in the community.

A detailed directive on the campaign was found recently in a wing of block 114 in a cell occupied by a Provisional prisoner convicted of murder.

The author's anxiety that it should not fall into the hands of the authorities is clear from an abridged version in *Gaelic* which translated reads: "Do not let the Germans (that is, Saxons, meaning staff or Protestants) find this."

A Sinn Féin spokesman said: "Prisoners are engaged in a campaign to make people outside aware of their situation, regardless of the election. I wouldn't think there is a special campaign which is addressed to IRA commanders in each wing and to their 'education men,' directs prisoners to pool their efforts to originate letters of complaint to newspapers."

Regulars concerning prisoners' letters which became operative on February 1 permit them to write to newspapers and broadcasting stations.

They also broaden the range of topics about which they can correspond, although letters are still censored.

Pointing out that prisoners can now write openly to the press, the author says: "I want you to make sure that any spare letters in your wing are used up every week. With short letters you can pay off, avoid any ideology type thing. Just comment on legal issues in which SF (Sinn Féin) are involved and more or less praising their community work."

Although ungrammatical, the circular is very comprehensive and is signed with Gaelic. It gives sound advice on writing to newspapers: "Don't crowd a letter. Pick one topic per letter and give it all the details you can put together."

Prisoners are told to compile lists of grievances arising in the past 12 months, as well as every major issue of harassment.

The "more serious" problems cited are "strip searches at Armagh, beating by riot squads, lack of privacy on the boards (that is, in the punishment cells), searching of visitors, forced integration, together with compassionate parole and life reviews for prisoners sentenced as juveniles to indefinite detention during the Secretary of State's pleasure."

The directive, signed with the unidentified Gaelic pseudonym, Eyr, Moo, outlines a broad theme for the campaign. The emphasis is not to be put on the "big issues" — already set — "them as big as keep hammering the theme home that the Brits are using the goals again to put pressure on the Republican movement and point out who is organising the campaign."

The directive is not to be put on the "big issues" — already set — "them as big as keep hammering the theme home that the Brits are using the goals again to put pressure on the Republican movement and point out who is organising the campaign."

"This is not just another exercise," Eyr, Moo says. "It's an important army activity, each of us have a duty to expose exactly what the Brits are at and what part they have in their plan for prisoners. The teachers (campaign) starts now," he concludes, demanding a progress report every third week from each recipient.

With such a modest price tag it can't be a Renault 5TL Le Car (In fact it's £1,100 less).

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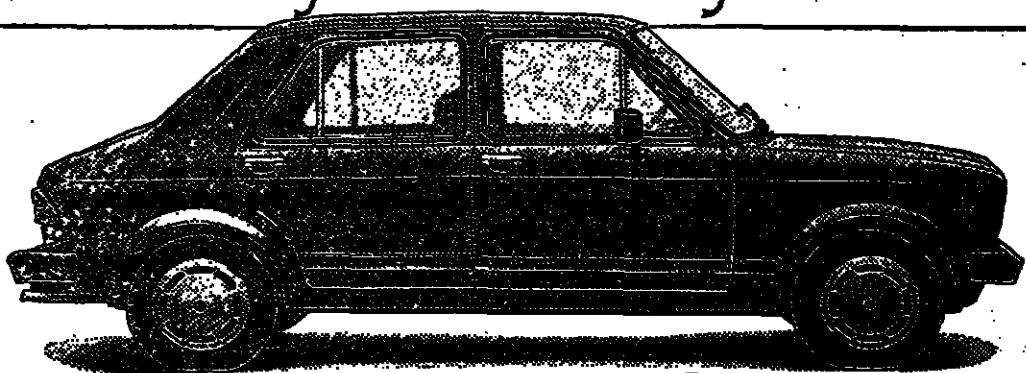
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## Priest's last push for holy airport

From Joe Joyce in Dublin

RICH Irish exiles are being sought urgently to invest in an international airport on a bog on top of a mountain in Co Mayo.

Monsignor James Moran, the elderly but indefatigable parish priest of the Marian Shrine at Knock, is seeking investors to provide the final £100 million (£2.6 million) required to make his dream of an international airport for pilgrims come true.

Having wheedled almost £100 million (£2.6 million) — and three quarters of a runway — out of successive Irish governments, he predicts that the first flight into the officially-named Connacht Regional Airport will touch down next autumn.

Credited with enticing the Pope to Ireland in 1979 for the centenary of the Virgin Mary's apparition at Knock, Mr Moran has managed to twist politicians around his fingers and overcome a cautious bureaucracy.

His luck seemed to have run out when the present Irish government halted its investment in what was originally thought would be a major landing strip.

The government recently handed over the project to his private company, which is raising the money to finish off the runway, build a terminal building and provide navigational and landing lights.

Successfully capping western grievances against central government in Dublin, he has organised local rallies for what is described as "a project in practical patriotism."

His supporters have secured Irish consumers in the US and subscriptions have rolled in.

Some £100,000 (£16,000) has been raised but he is now looking for a handful of rich investors to invest large amounts. If they do not wish to give donations, he is prepared to offer them up to 49 per cent of the airport company.

Metaphorists have reservations about the site, economists become speechless about its prospects — as outlined do not wish to know about it — but Mr Moran remains sublimely confident.

Aer Lingus said yesterday it was engaged in "ongoing discussions" with Mr Moran about services to the airport but no decisions had been reached. The airline is believed to be thinking of using small commuter aircraft rather than the jets that the monsignor's sights are on.

## Cut conveyancing to 3 weeks, says report

By Malcolm Dean

Proposals to cut the average time taken to buy a house from eight weeks to three were set out yesterday in the Conveyancing Committee's second report.

The committee, set up by the Government last year after a private member's bill forced ministers to agree to end the solicitors' conveyancing monopoly, assessed proposals for speeding up the procedure.

It recommends that sellers should have to provide answers to standard preliminary inquiries and local searches as soon as a house is placed on the market.

Prospective buyers should obtain certificates of mortgageability from banks or building societies so that sellers would know that they had enough money.

Other proposals included a wider use of computers by local authorities and the Land Registry, sanctions to speed up the response of council to conveyancing inquiries, and standardised building society documents procedures.

The report recommends that conveyancers and estate agents should work together and form "property centres" and that the 10 per cent deposit, which buyers are required to provide should be abandoned, so that buyers have no deposits and no more buyers withdrawing from contracts.

Professor Julian Farrand, the committee's chairman, said: "The law and practice of conveyancing should be made more simple so that anybody can do it themselves, just as you do when you buy a car."

Further reforms would be needed before this could happen.

Julian Farrand — more reforms needed

A standing committee should be established under the Law Commission to consider suggestions for conveyancing law reform and to rule on all aspects of conveyancing.

Ma Penny Duckham, of the Consumers' Association, welcomed the report but said she feared that many of the proposals would not be implemented unless they became statutory obligations. Solicitors who received interest on the 10 per cent deposits would have to be forced to abandon this practice.

Professor Farrand said legal fees for house-buying had fallen by about a third since the committee began its work one year ago.

Its first report, published last October, set out proposals which will allow licensed conveyancers to do house contract work.

Professor Farrand, who was appointed a lay commissioner last year, said that competition in conveyancing work had reduced solicitors' charges. He urged buyers to "shop around and get a quote."

## Claimants reject monthly payment plan for pensions and child benefit

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent

Plans to persuade pensioners to accept benefits paid directly into their bank accounts, and mothers to accept monthly child benefit payments, have proved unpopular, a National Audit Office investigation revealed yesterday.

As a result, the Department of Social Security has made less than half the £22 million savings it promised MPs after two cost-cutting scrutinies suggested the changes.

Least popular was a plan to ask pensioners to forgo weekly payments and have the money paid into banks by automated credit transfer.

An invitation to four million pensioners to take up the scheme led to only 89,000 acceptances — 2 per cent of those invited.

Among war pensioners some 41,000 out of 256,000 — 16 per cent — accepted the idea, and the department has told auditors that it does not expect any more war pensioners to take up the offer.

Among mothers claiming child benefit the department predicted that 2.5 million of the seven million claimants would opt to receive a four-weekly payment instead of a weekly payment.

In the event some 70 per cent decided to keep weekly payments, nearly halving estimated savings. Ministers do

not expect to achieve the £22 million savings until the early 1990s.

The report by Sir Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor General, adds that the department has failed to implement economies covering the payment of unemployment benefit and will only succeed in realising half the £13 million it expected to make from administrative procedures.

The failure to achieve savings is against a background of an increase in administrative costs from £236 million in 1976 to £1,328 million in 1982.

Arrangements for Delivering Social Security Benefits: Report by the Comptroller and Auditor General. Available from the Stationery Office, £2.85.

## Transport Department attacks bus franchise option

By Geoff Andrews, Transport Correspondent

The Department of Transport yesterday attacked MPs who had criticised its plans to privatise and deregulate the local bus industry in Britain.

Faced with growing disquiet about the changes in the present system which the current Buses Bill will bring about, the department yesterday issued a paper which described franchising — the alternative solution backed earlier this week by the Com-

mons select committee on transport — as a system with illusory benefits and great potential for monopoly power and abuse.

Coming just four days after the select committee brought out its highly-critical and controversial report on the buses legislation, this latest document from the department.

Problems with franchising, will be seen as an attempt to woo MPs back into the government camp. The target is those backbenchers who are attracted by a system which its supporters

say offers the advantages of a deregulated system without all the risks of safety dangers, congestion, and loss of services which they feel is implicit in the bill.

Franchising operates through the local authority and a bus operator agreeing a certain level of bus services on a set of routes which will be protected from outside competition.

The operator would be able to balance his profitable town routes against the loss on the social service routes he will also have contracted to run.

Planned legislation would not give any cross-subsidy effect, so that profitable urban sections would be open to competitors' creaming off that section and forcing a company to drop the uneconomic rural parts of its network.

The department maintains that the system threatens a drift towards monopoly, and a need for a large administration staff in the local authorities.

Usually, the document is being distributed free of charge by the department, although the Bill costs £2.85.



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President in fierce battle with both parties

## Reagan's popularity slides as he meets defeat in Congress

From Alex Brummer in Washington

Less than 50 days into his second term, President Reagan is engaged in trench warfare with Congress over budget cuts, the defence buildup and aid to the Nicaraguan rebels which threatens to erode his popular mandate in the country.

In quick succession, the President has seen his military budget slashed by the Republican-controlled Senate Budget Committee, has been forced to yield his veto over a farm bill and has watched Republican senators restore domestic cuts proposed in his 1986 budget. He is also fighting an uphill battle to keep the MX missile in production and aid flowing to the "contras" in Nicaragua.

These early clashes with Congress reflect the differing political priorities of a President who does not have to seek re-election and a Congress deeply concerned about the electoral consequences of blindly following his plan to slash government spending through domestic cuts, leaving the military virtually untouched.

Mr Reagan's decision to use the veto on the farm bill package on the ground that it goes through deficit ceilings shows him at odds with both Republicans and Democrats. While congressmen have chosen not to challenge the farm veto, because they do not believe they have enough votes in the Republican Senate to override it, sympathy for the farmers appears to be widespread.

According to a new CBS-New York Times poll released yesterday, Americans are overwhelmingly behind subsidies for the farmers, which Mr Reagan wants to eliminate, and public support for his defence spending is eroding fast. This data is likely to be of particular importance to Republican senators' 22 of whom face re-election in 1986. Many of them are rightwingers who swept into office on Mr Reagan's coat tails in 1980 but are now seen as vulnerable.

This largely explains events in the Senate Budget Committee, where day after day this week Republican senators have defied the President over his budget. While the most publicised vote was one to freeze military spending — cutting \$79 billion from Pentagon spending over the next three years — a series of votes on domestic programmes demonstrate the distance which has opened up between the executive and legislature.

In these votes, the committee, headed by Republican senator Peter Domenici of New Mexico, has refused to cut farm subsidies as President Reagan asked, has voted to preserve the Small Business Administration which the White House wanted abolished and voted extra funds for the Export-Import Bank instead of cutting them. At a recent committee vote slashing defence spending, has only given President Reagan around half the domestic cuts he wanted — at best.

Both Democrats and Republicans saw the popularity of Mr Reagan's domestic spending

cuts as an opportunity to recapture the loyalty and votes of a public which voted so overwhelmingly for the President in November. As the Speaker of the House, Mr Tip O'Neill, put it, "Mr Reagan's veto of the farm bill was a 'disgrace'." It bitterly hurt the farmers, "90 per cent (of whom) probably voted for him," he said.

Mr Reagan is determined to put on a public show of trying to lower the budget deficit, since he is both keen to trim the role of the federal Government and to demonstrate to allies abroad that the US is serious about tackling the \$200-billion deficits which have helped create the superdollar.

But, by holding his ground on defence spending, he has almost certainly ensured that there can be no breakthrough on domestic cuts. The one area where Mr Reagan may have managed to hold the line with Congress is on the MX — after an extraordinary lobbying effort in which 100 congressmen have been invited to the White House for a pep talk. This exhausting process has led five leading members of Congress, including the influential new chairman of the House armed services committee, Mr Les Aspin, to assure the President that there will be no full-scale assault on the MX until the summer.

In contrast, the Administration's wider claims about the Sandinista Government and the need to support the "freedom fighters" in Nicaragua appear to have failed miserably to win legislative support. The offer, which breaks with previous policy on emigration, said that preference would be given to families with children. "It is assumed that the children and youth should not be exposed to a life under capitalism through no fault of their own," the government announced. But this returning would have no automatic right to repossess their former homes.

The offer came only a day after East German newspapers claimed that more than 20,000 citizens wanted to return after becoming disillusioned with the capitalist system. The figure has been dismissed by Bonn officials as grossly exaggerated.

According to the East German press, most people who want to go back say they are unhappy with the reality of the capitalist system, complaining of unemployment, a lack of social security, and loneliness.

American, Belgian, and German veterans gathered in the Rhine town of Remagen yesterday, to commemorate the capture 40 years ago of the only bridge then remaining across the Rhine. Among those present was the first US soldier to reach the east bank, former Sergeant Alex Drabik.



Soviet Politburo members watch children dance at the Bolshoi Theatre in honour of Russian women. President Konstantin Chernenko was absent. He has not been seen other than on television for the past two months.

## E. Berlin call to exiles

From Anna Twardowska in Bonn

EAST GERMANY yesterday called for the first time official invited citizens who have fled to the West to return home. It said that the concession was in honour of the fortieth anniversary of liberation from Nazi rule.

The offer, which breaks with previous policy on emigration, said that preference would be given to families with children. "It is assumed that the children and youth should not be exposed to a life under capitalism through no fault of their own," the government announced. But this returning would have no automatic right to repossess their former homes.

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## Basque police chief murdered

From Edward Owen in Madrid

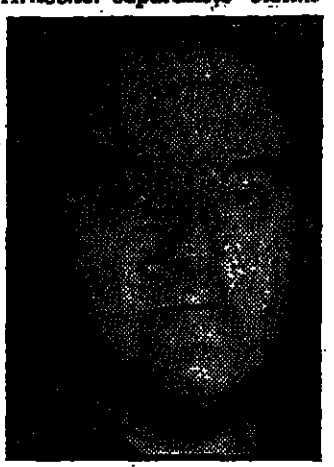
The head of the Basque autonomous police force was murdered yesterday near Vitoria, capital of the Basque region, when a bomb exploded under his car.

ETA Basque separatist terrorists are presumed to be responsible for the killing of Lt-Col Carlos Diaz Arkoche, 52-year-old father of five, who was born in Bilbao.

He had just taken his breakfast as usual in the cafeteria of a petrol station in Euzaraga when the bomb exploded as he restarted his car. The front part of the car was totally destroyed, and the police chief died later in hospital.

The Basque police force, the "Euzkadi," with its distinctive red berets and blue uniforms, was formed three years ago to give more security power to Basques and their autonomous government, taking

● Lt-Col Carlos Diaz Arkoche: separatists' victim



major disaster for the Community — and would invite the Japanese, with a long lead in low-pollution technology, to mount a further assault on the market.

"The European car industry is in a bad enough state at present, and it is crazy to weaken it still further," he said.

British officials say that lean burn engines — to be produced by Ford UK at Bridgend this year — will be cheaper to produce than less fuel than catalytic converters fitted to conventional engines. They have estimated the total additional cost of installing on catalytic converters, at \$9 billion for the whole community.

Earlier, the Industry Minister, Mr John Birt, told fellow ministers that three-way catalytic converters were expensive and outdated. If the EEC insisted on their use, the car industry would be forced into a technological blind alley.

The other main car producing countries — Britain, France, and Italy — are willing to impose tough emission standards. So, too, is the Netherlands.

But they say the US norms are irrelevant to European motoring conditions, that catalytic converters are expensive to buy and run, and that a new generation of so-called "lean burn" engines, still to be fully developed, will eventually offer more benefit to the environment, to consumers, and to the car industry.

The British Environment Minister, Mr William Waldegrave, said last night that successive proposals on technical standards and the time scale of their introduction, had narrowed the negotiating gap.

"I have no doubt that if it was a matter of life and death, the French, Dutch, and the British, it would be soluble. But we still don't know if the Germans are going to negotiate at all," he said.

Reacting up the Common Market for cars would be "a beautiful; it aims at being functional with its fast, petrol pumps, parking spaces and essential services. In fact, all you need if you are a South-east Asiatic immigrant who has mastered nostalgia and begun to build a new life. The only advertisement for language tuition offers crash courses in French, and might be expected in a district catering for upwardly mobile boat people."

If the immigrants give priority to the future, they have not forgotten the past, and the recent past: posters tell them about a special screening of films about Siam (Thailand) or remind them of political imprisonment and punishment in China. Politics has yielded the best due to Mr Try's murder. The police, after wondering about drugs, rackets and illicit workshops, have found the significance of a message left on a door in the flat: "The survivors of Kampuchean genocide."

Mr Try, it turns out, was a Khmer Rouge, a supporter of Pol Pot, whose regime murdered

many responsibilities formerly handled by forces controlled by Madrid.

It was hoped that this would lessen violence in the northern region of Spain. But the murder of the police chief represents a savage new blow by ETA in their armed struggle for an independent Marxist-Leninist state. Sixty people died last year and so far this year, in terrorist violence in Spain.

In a separate development yesterday, the former head of Spain's anti-terrorist supreme command, Manuel Ballesteros, scoffed at allegations by the leader of Herri Batasuna, the political wing of ETA, that he and other security chiefs plotted the killing last November of Santiago Brouard, aged 64, a prominent Herri Batasuna member.

Tromin Zileaga, flanked by Dr Brouard's widow and daughter, had accused Manuel Ballesteros of attending a secret rightwing meeting in Madrid at which those present decided to hire mercenaries to kill Dr Brouard. Mr Zileaga named other present at the gathering as General Andres Castiella, head of the Civil Guard, Lt-Col Guillermo Ostos, former chief of special operations, and three police commissioners.

The investigation in Dr Brouard's death was already controversial since the first public prosecutor appointed to the case was sacked after he had to ask the Spanish security forces and the secret service what they knew about the politician's death.

Yesterday, Manuel Ballesteros said he was considering legal action against Mr Zileaga for his allegations.

## UK tries to speed arms ban

By Hella Pick

Britain, in a fresh move to secure a chemical weapons ban, has drawn up new proposals for policing attempts to divert industrial chemicals to military uses.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, will table the proposals at the UN Conference on Disarmament in Geneva on Tuesday, the same day that US-Soviet arms control talks start there.

Negotiations on an agreement banning chemical weapons have been held at the disarmament conference for several years. Effective verification of the destruction of existing stocks, as well as a ban on production of new chemical weapons, is seen as the main obstacle to an agreement.

In earlier proposals on verification, Britain proposed "challenge" inspection if suspicions are aroused. The new proposals provide for routine inspections and are more particularly aimed at avoiding a repeat of such diversions of industrial chemicals to weapons use as in the Gulf war.

## Greece to spend \$3 bn on weapons

Athens: Greece will spend nearly \$3 billion on modernising its armed forces over the next decade. The object is to counter a perceived threat from its NATO ally, Turkey.

The government spokesman, Mr Dimitris Maroufis, said yesterday that \$2 billion would be spent on buying 40 American-made F16C and 40 French-made Mirage 2000 fighters. Contracts would be signed with McDonnell Douglas and Dassault-Breguet as soon as negotiations had been completed.

Another \$800 million would cover the construction of four frigates and five landing craft at Greek yards, along with the refurbishing of five destroyers.

"Modernisation of our armed forces is linked with our new defence doctrine," Mr Maroufis said. According to the doctrine, announced last December, Greek defence planning gave priority to a security threat from the East.

"Our country is under permanent, continuing, and intense threat from our neighbour and ally, Turkey," Mr Papandreu told Greek reporters on Wednesday. — AP.

He first came to France in 1970 but returned to Kampuchea in 1975 at least made frequent visits from that date. The editor of an Asiatic newspaper in Paris said Mr Try was certainly an old Khmer Rouge and a political motive or some settling of accounts between Kampuchean factions could not be excluded.

The police say ordinary criminals may have used a political slogan to cover their tracks, but acknowledge that the flat had not been ransacked or searched. It seems that the killers murdered the three younger passengers either as an extended vendetta or as a matter of convenience.

They waited for Mr Try to step into the hall after a day at the laboratory and then perhaps brought the full bitterness of Kampuchea to the town of Seine for the first time.

Mr Try, it turns out, was a Khmer Rouge, a supporter of Pol Pot, whose regime murdered

## Clothes clue to victims

THE US Embassy in Mexico City confirmed that identification of the clothes of two bodies found on Wednesday indicated they were those of the US warplane shot down last month by drug traffickers operating out of Mexico.

The US Ambassador, Mr John Gavin, was only hours away from leaving when he referred to as a "trail and slither" hope that the bodies were not those of the agent, Mr Enrique Camarena, a US customs and the pilot, Captain Alfredo Zavala, reports Peter Chapman.

The bodies were found buried on a ranch 106 miles south-east of Mexico's second city of Guadalajara. The state of decomposition of the bodies indicated they had been dead for nearly three weeks. — Reuters.

## Managua blast

AN ammunition dump exploded late on Wednesday night inside a heavily guarded army base in the centre of the Nicaraguan capital, Managua. The cause of the explosion is still not known, but Sandinista authorities are not discounting sabotage by US-backed counter-revolutionaries. The worst damage was caused to a neighbouring military hospital which was gutted. Deaths fell over a mile away.

## Noumea meeting

FRANCE'S special envoy to New Caledonia, Mr Edgard Pisani, yesterday met the head of the local government, Mr Philippe Ugeux, in Noumea for the first time since their discussions on the island's future broke down in January. Mr Ugeux walked out of the previous talks after accusing Mr Pisani of "conspiring with the indigenous Kanaks for independence from France." — Reuters.

## Hong Kong poll

HONG KONG voters turned out in large numbers for the colony's first territory-wide elections yesterday. Only about 20 per cent of the 1.6 million registered voters had cast ballots by early evening, officials said. Late voters were forming at polling centres as of 10 p.m. Factory workers finished work at a total of 503 candidates are battling for 237 seats on 19 district boards, which have advisory powers only. — Reuters.

## Attack on rebels

THE army has launched a big offensive against Muslim rebels on the small southern island of Mindanao, where the guerrillas have been holding an American, a German, and a Japanese hostage for weeks. The military said yesterday: "We have to take the risk (of the hostages being killed) because this involves the safety of the majority of the people in the area." — AP.

## Unkind cut

THERE were calls yesterday for change in the Italian law to permit male birth control operations after a Florence appeals court gave Dr Giorgio Consoni of the Marie Stopes family planning clinic in Lucca a one-year suspended sentence on Wednesday for performing vasectomies on 49 men in 1979. — AP.

## Deportation call

AN ISRAELI MP, Goula Cohen, yesterday demanded that Dennis Goldberg, aged 52, who arrived in Israel last week after serving 21 years in a Pretoria gaol for plotting to overthrow the South African government, should be deported for saying that Israeli civilians are legitimate targets for Palestinian bombings. — Reuters.

## Heart transplant

SURGEONS in Tucson, Arizona, yesterday transplanted a human heart into a man who was kept alive for 11 hours by the emergency implant of an unapproved artificial heart that has never before been used in a human. The patient was said to be in critical condition with several significant complications. — AP.

## Tanker blast

FOUR Soviet sailors were injured, one seriously, in an explosion on a Soviet oil tanker on Wednesday the Merchant Marine Ministry said yesterday. The tanker was on its way to the Gulf when the explosion occurred at the Baltic port of Ventspils in Latvia, a spokesman said. — Reuters.

## 48 drowned

AT least 48 people drowned when a boat capsized while carrying sightseers to look at a shipwreck off southern India. Helicopters and naval vessels are still searching for survivors near the port of Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu state, the Press Trust of India said. Fishermen rescued about 50 people. — Reuters.

## Free Astiz faces new charges

From Jeremy Morgan in Buenos Aires

Human rights campaigners in Argentina have filed new charges against navy lieutenant Alfredo Astiz, freed on Tuesday by a military court ruling on his trial in connection with the disappearance of a Swedish teenager in 1977.

The new case was presented before a civilian court barely 24 hours after the controversial decision by the Armed Forces Supreme Council, Argentina's highest military tribunal.

Lawyers for the Centre for Legal and Social Studies, one of Argentina's longest-established human rights groups, allege Astiz and another navy officer, Captain Jorge Acosta, were responsible for kidnapping a middle-aged couple, their daughter and boyfriend in 1976.

Earlier, it is said, the couple's son had told them he had to wash down walls and floors full of blood while doing military service at the navy's mechanics school, one of the most notorious secret goals and torture centres during the military regime's long "dirty war" against civilian opponents.

## NZ warns Russia to cut propaganda

Wellington: The Soviet Union has been told to tone down its propaganda activity inside New Zealand, authorities said yesterday.

A warning was delivered by the Prime Minister, Mr David Lange, when he summoned the Soviet ambassador, Mr Vladimir Bykov, to complain of what he called Moscow's "misrepresentation" of Wellington's anti-nuclear policy.

Mr Lange used strong words during the 10-minute meeting on February 22 before he departed on a two-week overseas tour, the sources said.

Other official sources said New Zealand shared Australia's concern about Soviet overtures to several South Pacific island nations.

They said there was no evidence that the Soviet diplomatic activity was connected with the crisis in US-New Zealand relations prompted by Wellington's ban on warships which may carry nuclear weapons.

They said Wellington was apprehensive about recent non-military Soviet activity in the South Pacific, including negotiations for fishing rights in Kiribati, formerly the British Gilbert Islands colony.

The Foreign Minister, Mr Bill Hayden, warned of Soviet Pa-

cific activity when he met the US Assistant Secretary of State, Mr Paul Wolfowitz, in Bangkok this week.

He also expressed concern that Washington's reaction to Wellington's nuclear-free policy could reduce its traditional influence with its smaller South Pacific neighbours.

The Soviet Union is among Wellington's 10 biggest trading partners, but the Government has for some time been at pains to draw a distinction between the trading and the political relationships.

No comment was available from the Soviet embassy, but in a recent speech, Mr Bykov said: "We need nothing in this region. We have neither particular ambitions here, nor special interests."

In Canberra, the Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, announced yesterday that the US and Australia will hold "level defence talks in July."

He said the talks, to be held in Canberra and attended by the US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, would replace the annual meeting of the Anzus defence pact linking the two countries and New Zealand.

That meeting has been postponed, and the alliance thrown into disarray, because of New Zealand's nuclear ban. — Reuters.

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Long march ended after helicopter scared dissidents • Skeletons identified

## Mugabe tells how kidnap tourists were killed

From Andrew Meldrum

The six tourists kidnapped in Matabeleland on July 23, 1982, were killed three days later by their rebel abductors, the Zimbabwe Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, said here yesterday.

Mr Mugabe said that government officers only recently found the tourists' graves in a remote Matabeleland village. He said the young men's remains are now just skeletons, jumbled by several reburials, and positive identifications by dental records is very time-consuming. He said that three of the tourists have been conclusively identified: a Briton, James Greenwell, aged 21, of London, an American, Kevin Ellis, 26, of Bellevue, Washington, and William Butler, 33, of Newcastle, Australia.

He said pathologists and investigators are convinced that the other three skeletons are those of the three other tourists: an American, Brett Baldwin, 25, of Walnut Creek, California, an Australian, Tony Bajzel, 27, of Tasmania, and a Briton, Martin Hodgson, 38, of Birmingham.

Mr Mugabe told the story of the tourists' deaths as placed together by army officials who questioned villagers who were present. After walking with their dissident captors for three days, the six tourists were killed in a small mud hut. When an army helicopter flew low over the hut the six yelled for help.

"But alas, no one heard

their cries except the dissidents and we are told because of that cry the dissidents became rather afraid to continue with the people who might expose them to government security forces and so they decided to kill them there," Mr Mugabe said.

Five of the tourists were shot dead and one, who tried to run away, was caught and strangled, according to the villagers.

The Security Minister, Mr Emmerson Mnangagwa, said that 16 of the 22 dissidents involved in the kidnapping plot have been killed by government troops. Two others are in prison awaiting death sentences and four are unaccounted for. Mr Mnangagwa said that the leader of the kidnapping gang was Gilbert Ngwenya, alias Eskimo Wazi, who was convicted of the kidnappings as well as the murders of four white farmers late last year. Ngwenya is alleged to have been a member of a one-party state, but had this anything to do with a one-party state? he asked rhetorically.

Mr Mugabe said the rebels got people from the Lupane village, whom he did not identify, to help them bury the bodies. He said the villagers also walked cattle over the graves to hide them from the biggest manhunt ever launched in this country for the kidnappers and their victims.

Villagers who did not deny helping the rebels in "this bloody act" had been arrested.



Mr Mugabe and the Information Minister, Mr Nathan Shamuyarira, at the conference

supporters of the opposition Zanu party of Mr Joshua Nkomo.

"A group from among us, for its own motives, brutally murdered innocent tourist civilians who had nothing to do with our own quarrel. The biggest manhunt ever launched in this country for the kidnappers and their victims."

Villagers who did not deny helping the rebels in "this bloody act" had been arrested.

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## Blame and counter-blame as front line erupts

From Julie Flint

In Kawthar, ISRAELI troops and tanks yesterday crossed over their new front line in southern Lebanon and shelled Lebanese Army positions in this farming village for the second time in nine days.

Israeli tank and machine-gun fire killed two Shiite Muslim gunmen fighting the Israeli army alongside Lebanese troops in south Lebanon, Shiite sources said.

Each side blamed the other for firing first.

Journalists in the area did not witness the start of the confrontation which came during an hour of heavy fighting and several of intermittent firing. But later, during 60 minutes we spent there, after the Israelis had fallen back two Israeli shells direct hits on houses and gunfire made movement on roads dangerous. During this time, not a single bullet was fired by the Lebanese.

The first of the two Israeli shells hit a building flying the Lebanese flag. There were no casualties. "The flag is on one building," said a Lebanese soldier. "The troops are in another."

The second shell fell on a two-storey house overlooking the Israeli tanks. Had there

been Lebanese soldiers inside, they would most likely have been killed. But they were taking shelter behind the building.

Since the Lebanese Army deployed its newly constituted 12th brigade, the Israelis three weeks ago, it has been at pains to avoid confrontation. It has no ambition, declared or otherwise, but to advance with the Israeli withdrawal. And, given its inferior weaponry, it would be foolish to go out of its way to provoke a clash.

Soldiers at the scene said the fighting began in early morning when 12 Israeli tanks advanced towards the village and fired 25 shells. The Lebanese Army responded with "all available weapons" as an Israeli helicopter flew overhead.

One Lebanese tank fired 10 times. But most of the battle was fought on the Lebanese side with sub-machine-guns and rocket-propelled grenades. "We have nothing," a Christian officer said, "but these — and our God and our courage."

The army also had militiamen — too many of them for the liking of its commanding officer, Major Zein Khalife. The relationship between regulars and

irregulars has become uncomfortable since the first shoot-out in the village on February 27. Many of the militiamen here yesterday looked like suspects from West Beirut.

This uneasy alliance is believed by Western diplomats in Beirut to be one of the reasons for Israel's "provocations" against the army. Another view is that the US has done nothing to far to curb the excesses of its ally in southern Lebanon.

"Israel knows it has America in its pocket at the Security Council," said one diplomat.

In southern Lebanon the situation is deteriorating. Late on Wednesday, three civilians of Israeli intelligence agents and their local allies attempted to enter the village of Yater that lies within the Israeli zone of UN-aided operations. Women and children attempted to keep them out and they opened fire, killing a 16-year-old girl and wounding three others. When Irish UN troops tried to evacuate the wounded, the Israeli allies decided them passage. During the night, an Irish position near Yater was attacked with small arms.

## Iran and Iraq strike at cities

From David Hirst

In Kuwait

Iran and Iraq yesterday kept up artillery and missile attacks on civilian targets, and ignored an appeal from the UN Secretary-General. "Created more and more to come."

Basra and Abadan, which face each other across the Shatt al-Arab waterways, were the targets of artillery duels during much of the day.

Reports from Iraq said up to 60 shells hit Basra during a 90-minute bombardment before dawn. After subsiding, the shelling began again in the morning and was continued sporadically during the late afternoon.

Casualty figures were not announced, but Baghdad newspapers said yesterday that 100 people were killed and wounded during the first Iranian bombardment of the city on Tuesday.

According to the Iranian news agency, Iran, Abadan came under heavy artillery fire during the morning, and three people were killed and five wounded. This followed an Iraqi missile attack on the south-western town of Dezful.

According to the agency, eight missiles struck the town in 20 seconds, killing and wounding 70 people and badly damaging a hospital and two schools. It was reported to be

the first time that the Iraqis have unleashed so many missiles in a single salvo.

Iran first shelled Basra on Tuesday night, for a town that was retaliation for Iraqi strikes on Monday against a steel plant at Ahvaz and an uncompleted nuclear plant at Bushehr, which it said killed 12 people and wounded 30.

The speaker of Iran's Parliament, Mostafaez Ali Akbar Haseini, said yesterday that retaliation was the only way to stop the Iraqi attacks. "It seems we have no alternative but to retaliate as powerfully as we can," he said.

The exchanges violate last year's UN-sponsored agreement — one of the few meagre successes of outside mediation in the conflict — under which both sides undertook to halt attacks on civilian targets.

While both countries reiterated their readiness to continue to honour the agreement, providing the other does, neither makes any secret of its deliberate choice of civilian targets.

After Wednesday night's attack on Dezful, Iran announced that it would heavily shell all parts of Basra. Then it announced that it would also attack the central border town of Mandali, by air as well as with artillery.

## Mubarak on tour of West

From Ian Black

in Cairo

President Mubarak leaves Cairo today for a tour that will take him to Paris, and then to Washington and London, in search of Western support and encouragement for joint Egyptian-Jordanian efforts to open up a new phase of Middle East peace negotiations.

The President, accompanied by a large and high-powered entourage, will be seeking to convince the governments in all three capitals that the recent agreement between Jordan and the PLO opens up new horizons for peace-making.

His most important and longest visit, which begins tomorrow, will be to the United States, whose attitude to the new Arab proposals will be crucial if any progress is to be made towards reviving the stagnant peace process.

Egypt is also hoping for an increase of nearly \$800 million on top of the \$2.8 billion in military and economic aid it is scheduled to get in the coming fiscal year — more than double the level of American assistance to any other country except Israel, which is to receive \$2.6 billion.

Leader comment, page 14)

## SA sanctions bill unveiled in US

From Alex Brummer

in Washington

A bipartisan effort to impose economic sanctions on South Africa was announced yesterday by Senator Edward Kennedy and congressmen from both Houses. The move, which follows an upsurge in demonstrations against apartheid, is a direct challenge to President Reagan's policy of "constructive engagement" with Pretoria.

The 1985 Anti-Apartheid Act, which was simultaneously unveiled in both Houses of Congress yesterday, would end the sale of the South African gold in the US. More importantly, it would immediately ban all new US investment and bank loans to the country.

It comes at a time when US local authorities, including

New York City, and many large corporations and organisations have been reassessing economic sanctions on South Africa. America's largest bank, Citibank of New York, recently announced that it would make no further loans to the country and Harvard University has been discarding its investments in companies with interests in South Africa, selling off almost \$1.8 billion of shares.

The political chances of the Kennedy measure, however, remain blurred, even though he has managed to persuade at least one liberal Republican in Congress, Mr Lowell Weicker of Connecticut, to sponsor the bill. A similar measure failed last year because the Republican-controlled Senate refused to go along with the sanctions. President Reagan might also consider a veto

should the legislation be passed.

While the bill's chances are currently good in the Democratic-controlled House, where Democrats and moderate Republicans are sponsoring the bill, its hopes in the Senate may have also improved. The Republican majority there has narrowed, several leading Democrats, including Senator Kennedy and Senator William Proxmire, have joined the effort and the accession of Mr Richard Lugar to the chairmanship of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee means that hearings will almost certainly take place.

One major disappointment, however, was that the House sponsors were unable to get 35 conservative Republicans, who have publicly protested about Pretoria's policies, to join the

list of sponsors. The conservative Republicans say they are working on their own bill which would include sanctions against all human rights violators — both South Africa and the Soviet Union. It is possible that the bills could be merged.

AP adds from Johannesburg: In an exchange of letters, Senator Kennedy has demanded the release of black leaders charged with treason in South Africa and President P.W. Botha accused him of being presumptuous and misinformed.

I would have thought that your recent visit to South Africa might have in some way added to your knowledge of this country. That is evidently not the case," Mr Botha said. ANC oil embargo call, page 18.

## 3 Britons still held

By Patrick Kestley

Diplomatic Correspondent

Mystery surrounds the delay in the release of the three Britons captured in northern Angola by UNITA guerrillas at the end of December. They were supposed to have been set free in February.

The Foreign Office said last night that officials had made contact with a UNITA representative here, who said the men were fit and well, and that the delay was caused by the procedures for making "necessary arrangements."

The men were seized when UNITA raided the mining town of Kafunfo. They are Glen Dixon, John McMichael and Paul Huggins.

## Thais push back Viet troops

From Nicholas Cumming-Bruce

in Bangkok

Thai forces appear to have pushed out most of the Vietnamese troops who crossed into the north-eastern Thai province of Surin to attack the Kampuchean resistance base of Tatum. But a new assault is expected and the camp's survival is in doubt.

Thailand's army commander, General Arthit Kamlangke, said the situation was returning to normal as Vietnamese troops were retreating from three strategic hills near Tatum which they had occupied in the early stages of their incursion.

But a spokesman for the followers of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, leader of Kampuchea's resistance coalition, who are defending Tatum, said that the Vietnamese move, to reinforce positions opposite the camp and another attack was possible.

Sihanoukist sources said that the Vietnamese artillery rounds on Wednesday night and early yesterday as infantry tried to launch a new cross-border push to get behind the camp, sources at the border reported but they were repulsed by Thai forces.

"The Vietnamese troops' inability to cut through Thai territory to attack Tatum from the sides or the rear leaves them with a far more difficult frontal assault up a steep 500-yard escarpment to get to the camp. But Vietnamese forces have smashed all other Khmer resistance bases on the border with Thailand since the start of their dry season offensive in November and seem certain to finish the job."

Thai military losses in the fighting are now put at 14 men killed and 35 wounded with three men missing. Thai authorities also say some 15 villagers have been killed in the fighting. The Vietnamese, according to Thai army claims, have lost more than 60 men killed.

Hanoi, however, has dismissed allegations of an incursion as a "fabrication" and as a cover for Thailand's "ever closer collusion with China in giving military aid to the Khmer reactionaries."

Prince Sihanouk arrived in Bangkok yesterday and is extending what was originally due to be an overnight stop on his way to China from New Zealand to visit at least his civilian followers.

## Police arrest forty Kashmir activists

From Eric Silver

in New Delhi

Police yesterday arrested more than 40 Muslim separatists and pro-Pakistan leaders in the disputed border state of Kashmir.

They included Mr Syed Ali Shah Geelani, who took over this week as leader of the fundamentalist Jamaati-Islami party, and activists from three other groups. Mr Geelani and his deputy, Mr G. M. Shah, were arrested with unlawful activities and the rest were detained under the state's Public Safety Act.

Kashmir's police chief, Mr M. M. Khajuria, said that separatists had become more active in the past few months. Delay in acting against these "anti-national elements" would prove disastrous for Kashmir just when it was expecting its best tourist season in three years, he added.

Police have been keeping a close watch on the separatist state since the army operation in neighbouring Punjab last June and the dismissal of Kashmir's chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, a month later. There are frequent reports of spies or armed dissidents arrested after crossing

into the state from Pakistan.

Results in state assembly elections yesterday confirmed a pattern where the ruling Congress (I) party has tightened its grip on the five Hindi-speaking states of northern and central India, but has lost ground to the Opposition in the six other states in the north-east and south.

Congress won more than three-quarters of the seats in Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, but only secured bare majorities in the other Hindi states: Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan. It won 51 of 100 seats in the industrial south-west. It did unexpectedly well, however, in Orissa and Gujarat, taking three-quarters of seats in each. Congress also won comfortably in the union territory of Pondicherry.

The Opposition scored its most striking victories in Andhra Pradesh, where the regional Telugu Desam party led by the former film star, Mr N. T. Rama Rao, won a two-thirds majority in Karnataka, where the Janata Party increased its lead in a state where it was wiped out by Congress in December's general elections, and in Sikkim, where another regional party captured 30 out of 32 seats.

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## Promise of freedom

Islamabad: General Zia

has promised to free all detained opposition politicians by the end of the month.

Political leaders representing almost all of Pakistan's opposition parties and more than 800 opposition activists were arrested last month before general elections from which political parties were barred by General Zia.

On Tuesday the authorities announced an extension to the house arrests of at least 18 of the leaders for one to three months. But three were freed in the North-West Frontier province on Wednesday to attend family ceremonies.

General Zia said in an interview with the conservative Urdu-language daily Nawa-i-Waqt that all detained politicians would be freed by the end of this month, but rejected fresh elections to replace the Opposition which refused to accept last week's polls for a national assembly and four provincial assemblies.

He also rejected the possibility that the only opposition leader to be freed was a prime minister from the 337-seat National Assembly through sweeping powers he acquired under constitutional amendments announced on Saturday. — Reuter.

## Biggs meets Yard man on TV

From Robert Whyman

in Tokyo

THE Great Train Robber, Ronnie Biggs, yesterday told anyone in Japan with crime on his mind to keep to the straight and narrow. "I'd like to say right here and now, if you are thinking of a crime, forget it," he said.

It was Biggs, the international celebrity, at his charming best, addressing through a television screen in Tokyo, the industrialised world's lowest crime rate.

The occasion was a face-to-face meeting with Slipper, the policeman who almost brought Biggs back from Brazil 11 years ago, was in a Nippon television studio in Tokyo, and Biggs was merely an image on a large studio screen.

The satellite linkup between Brazil and Japan was Nippon Television's coup de theatre, winning up a 60-minute special on the robber, escape artist, lover, and adventurer.

In the documentary, Biggs, aged 55, emerged as a hero of our time and in an acting debut played himself in the Brazil chapter of the story with gusto. The sympathetic chronicle left millions of Japanese commercial channel viewers with the impression that Britain is a country of barbaric judges, flat-footed and dogged policemen, and loveable villains.

"How are you getting on?" asked the Slipper, like a schoolmaster inquiring about a former pupil. "I'm getting on very well indeed," said Biggs, with an effort to convince.

The studio discussion, which was pre-recorded, was cordial though the Slipper looked a little tense.

Accepting an invitation from Biggs to go to Brazil for a lavish celebration of his 20 years on the run this July, the retired policeman imposed a condition: Biggs must in return come to England for

the Slipper's 30th wedding anniversary. "I think it is time for the British Government to let me off the hook," said Biggs plaintively.

"I can tell you now, without being hard, you have got no chance," The Slipper reminded Biggs that he only had 28 years left of his prison sentence.

"We've been talking to each other by a miracle of science," said Biggs from Brazil. "But we don't have a cure for the common cold — and we don't have a cure for common criminality either."

The Slipper was eager to know if crime had paid for his former adversary. Biggs was elusive. How could he be a villain since the gods had blessed him with such a son?

The son, Michael Biggs, was then shown in the Tokyo studio watching the exchanges. Michael, now grown into a 10-year-old superstar in Brazil, is in Japan to promote his record sales.

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# Tories who are fluoriding high before the fall



Ian Aitken

THERE is something perversely satisfying about the fact that, in a week which not only brought an end to Britain's longest strike but also saw the pound resume its slide against the dollar, our elected legislature was taken over lock, stock and barrel by the green ink brigade.

I should explain at once that the expression is the more-or-less affectionate description given by journalists and politicians to the people who write the economic letters, often in block capitals and frequently underlined in multicoloured inks. For some reason I have never heard correspondents explained, the most obsessive of these correspondents seem to prefer green.

So there they all were at the Palace of Westminster on Tuesday and Wednesday, sounding off about "the" putting things in the drinking water and complaining that they were being spied upon by heaven knows who. But this time it wasn't the Central Lobby that was full of them. They were in the

Chamber itself, talking their heads off about fluoridation. I hasten to add that I have no wish to disparage those who have reservations about shoving chemicals in the water — though God knows, anyone who lives in London already has a phenomenal intake of chlorine. On the whole, I share those reservations, not so much because of the implications of human liberty as because of my doubts about the accuracy of scientific assurances that it is all perfectly safe.

But the filibuster mounted by Tory MPs against their own government's Water (Fluoridation) Bill throughout Wednesday was staged almost entirely on grounds of individual freedom — the freedom of the citizen not to be subjected to compulsory medication. Apart from a few Labour backbenchers who seemed to join in mainly for mischief, the Hansard report reads like the call of the Conservative fruit-cake right.

They included not just the record-breaking Mr. Ian Lawrence but also Mr. Nicholas Fairbairn, Sir Ian Percival (both former law officers), Mr. Tony Marlow, Sir Geoffrey Finsberg, Mrs. Edwina Currie and a Winterton or two. Most were agreed that the Government's poor little measure, which seeks to provide legal cover for what is already being done, was probably the most serious assault on our liberties since ship money.

New odd thing about all this is that the Government whips, after an initial period of annoyance, later gave an uncharacteristic blessing to this assertion of backbench power over the

executive. And for why, as Lord Beaverbrook might have asked? Because these champions of individual freedom were busy talking out a debate on a somewhat more serious matter for the liberties of the citizen — telephone tapping.

And, strange to relate, very few of the right-wing Tory MPs are outraged by one part of the quillion gallons of drinking water seem greatly distressed by the organs of the state chipping in on your telephone conversations — or mine, or Mrs. Joan Ruddock's.

But there it is: provided you are not a miner, or perhaps the head of the Bank of England's foreign exchange section, this week's events at Westminster have certainly added to the sum of human entertainment. Perhaps it should have been marked formally by printing yesterday's Hansard in, well... green ink?

But I am inclined to think, or at any rate to hope, that recent developments within the government and the Conservative Party (of which the fluoridation fiasco is only a minor item) do actually betoken some genuine change of atmosphere in the mid-term of this Parliament. A government which can get itself into so many embarrassing tangles all at once must surely be a government which is heading into bad trouble.

That most governments do start to come apart in quite improbable ways when they begin to lose confidence in themselves is well attested in the history books, and also in more immediate political experience. Perhaps the clas-

sic example in recent years was the sudden crumbling of the second Macmillan government, which began with the Vassall "gay spy" scandal, gathered strength with backbench revolt over resale price maintenance, and finally became irresistible with the grotesque revelations of life in high places made public by the Profumo affair and the Argyle divorce case.

New evidence of this phenomenon has come my way with the arrival of an advance copy of a new biography of the late Hugh Dalton, which is to be published next week (Hogarth, Jonathan Cape, £25). Its author, Ben Pimlott, retells the story of Dalton's fall from office in 1947 as a result of an incident which would hardly cause a ripple in our less fastidious times.

Mr. Pimlott hails Hugh Dalton as probably the only really socialist Chancellor this country has ever had, and not solely because of his "cheap money" policy. He points out that he sought to manipulate the economy, not just by Keynesian demand management, but by direct physical controls. His successors, Sir Stafford Cripps and Hugh Gaitskell, were Keynesians rather than socialists, he suggests.

But the story of the fall of Dalton has a special interest for our times, since it concerns that most topical of subjects, leaks or to be more specific, budget leaks. For Hugh Dalton unwisely blurted out virtually the whole content of his November 1947 budget to a lobby correspondent literally as he was walking into the chamber to begin his speech.

The journalist concerned was the late John Carvel, political correspondent of a left-of-centre London evening newspaper called The Star, now sadly defunct. He was no slouch, and was quickly on the phone to his office with the kind of scoop every reporter dreams about.

Carvel finished his brief conversation with Dalton at 3.12 pm, finished dictating his story to his office by 3.17 pm, added a line to it at 3.27 pm, and the editions containing a brief but comprehensive forecast of the budget measure were printing by 3.40 pm. They were on sale in Fleet Street, Middle Temple Lane and the Aldwych tube station by five minutes to four.

It is worth mentioning in passing that, if The Star had been working on what is nowadays called "the new technology" it is unlikely that this feat would have been achieved, and Dalton's career would have been saved. But thanks to steam age technology, the essentials of the budget were on the streets some minutes before the Chancellor actually began to unveil them to the House of Commons just after 4 pm.

There is not much doubt that it was a budget leak, though as one in the subsequent controversy could claim that it had done the slightest damage to anyone or anything. In spite of this, the matter was raised in the Commons the following day. Dalton decided that he would have to resign.

Needless to say, the then leader of the Opposition, Winston Churchill, made the most of this glorious political

windfall. But even he was astonished when the Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, accepted Dalton's resignation and explained that he had done so because the discretion of the Chancellor had to be above question.

It is a fascinating story, and it is well told by Mr. Pimlott. But the author has his own theories about the real reasons behind the event: he believes that Attlee really wanted to get rid of his ultra-socialist Chancellor, and seized the opportunity, I believe him, and conclude that in many respects it was the event which formed the watershed for the 1945 Labour Government. Though it is fashionable among the Bennites to canonise Clem Attlee as a socialist saint worthy to join Keir Hardy and the rest of the heavenly host, I think the Pimlott version is nearer the truth.

One final point: When a select Committee of the House of Commons later investigated the leak, there was a great deal of pompous nonsense uttered about John Carvel's role. It was suggested — even by some of his lobby colleagues — that he had in some way behaved improperly. Many politicians unloaded their own guilty feelings on Carvel's shoulders.

Nowadays Mr. Carvel would not have to sprint from the members' lobby to the telephone just before the Chancellor rose. He would already have read it in the Sunday papers, or perhaps in the Guardian, ages before. But to this isn't leading, it's kidding. And no one is expected to resign for it, least of all the Chancellor.

# A benefit to make the DHSS man look sick

Edwina Currie

THE televising of Parliament has brought anguish to plans from Members of the House of Commons as to why the cameras are likely to find their benches empty. The committee room calls, they say, that's where the real work of the mother of parliaments is done.

The committee rooms certainly witness strange and esoteric discussions. Ministers hesitant in the chamber often shine in the more dignified atmosphere of a standing committee, also, sadly vice versa.

Standing Committee E, considering the 1985 Social Security Bill has certainly been a gentlemanly affair (or ladylike — the Opposition is led by Margaret Beckett and Jo Richardson). Few battles have been fought here, indeed the Government has only been examined in detail by its own backbenchers, particularly Brandon Rhys Williams and Michael Stern.

But we managed to put down one marker for the future, on statutory sick pay (SSP). The day will come when a future Public Accounts or Treasury Committee will have a poke at the true net costs of the scheme, particularly of its excesses from right to 28 weeks, and they would then do to take a look at the dignified discussions in Committee Room 10.

During the 1970s there was a rapid growth in occupational sick pay schemes, so that most employees were covered by a private scheme. By 1974 DHSS was processing 10 million sickness benefit claims per year, the majority of which overlapped with sick pay from employers. SSP was introduced in April 1983 and was intended to remove the double provision; and sickness pay is taxable, whereas the state benefit isn't. Employers seem to have coped well with claims up to eight weeks and a saving on public funds and manpower was gratefully acknowledged by the DHSS. Hence the provision in Clause 7 of the current bill to extend it from eight to 28 weeks.

Whoa, said the employers. You're saving money but we are not. The burden on small employers will be crippling. OK, said the Government, we'll share the savings with you. You don't need to pay the £40 million due as the employers' contribution on the SSP paid up to eight weeks. And you won't have to fork out these contributions for the rest of the 28 weeks either. How's that? Fine, said the employers, that'll do nicely.

Unfortunately the £40 million concession wipes out any saving to the public purse. There will be a reduction, as a result of the replacement of state sickness benefit, of £200 million in 1986-87 at current benefit levels. There will be a further saving of about £4 million in administration: a mere drop in the ocean of DHSS's annual £40 billion in benefits. But the Government will refund to the employers every penny they reimburse in SSP: estimated at £283 million in a full year.

That opens a gap of £85 millions in a full year and hence the budget concession to forgo as well. The gap is supposed to be filled by income tax and national insurance contributions payable by employees (only £283 million). The Government's guess is that £70 millions will come back in tax and £20 millions in NI.

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## In-House briefing

PARLIAMENT is dominated by Smith's paper next week. After the great debate on M15 with the second reading of the telephone tapping Bill in the Commons on Tuesday the Lords will be launching into subversion.

The former Conservative prime minister, Lord Hailsham, who was responsible for the removal of more Russian spies at one go than any other PM this century, will initiate a debate on Wednesday which, while expressing the desire to seek better relations with the Soviet Union, emphasises that obstacles are caused by Soviet exploitation of economic and social problems in developing countries.

While Lord Home, backed by a red-under-the-beds hunter Lord Orr-Ewing, will be concentrating on the international side of the debate, Lord (Frank) Chapple will be turning his attention to the second part of Lord Home's motion on intervention by the Soviet Union in the internal affairs of other countries (British trade unions?).

Lord Shiwell, having reached his century, is in the hot seat. The debate will be opened by Lady Young, the Foreign Minister, and

That gave a marginal rate of 25 per cent on both — a bit high, surely, as the highest rate of SSP will be only 24.45 even after April, when they won't be exactly wolf in sheep's clothing. But if this calculation is too high then the government's savings do a vanishing act, and the scheme starts to cost money, perhaps as much as £10 million.

The Minister, Tony Newton, is an acknowledged expert on these matters. He deals with detailed points with clarity and elegance, seldom needing his departmental brief (and occasionally correcting his advisers, to their chagrin). One was pricked up when he moved on to married women. A little unexpected concession has been given to them — they will all be able to claim SSP, in future, even those who have retained their right to pay a lower rate of contribution to the full now. Equally, they form claiming unemployment, maternity and sickness benefits.

It will also apply to widows; previously, the widows' pension or widowed mother's allowance was regarded as an overlapping benefit with state pension. Now they could not claim both. Now they'll get SSP too, so.

So the Government reckons that the gap will be made to close more firmly by the additional N.I. contributions on their SSP from all these new subjects to the tune of £15 million. Heaven knows how such figures are arrived at. "A provisional estimate" says the Minister. Anyway it will be wiped out by the cost to the Government of giving the concession in the first place. The rest is estimated at around £15 millions too. Isn't that neat?

Now I prefer governments to keep their sticky fingers out of people's pockets. And in general governments prefer to get the sums right, if only because it's so frightfully embarrassing when they are shown wrong. Remember premature retirements from the NHS. And the admin cost of housing benefits DHSS has a distinctly spotty record in making the numbers add up, particularly when a new and generous scheme is introduced.

So it's chilling to note the claim in the Public Expenditure White Paper, published while Mr. Newton was yet on his feet, that the new scheme "will reduce duplication of state and private provision and public and private staff." Well, we shall see. Some DHSS manpower will be saved, and the National Insurance Fund will be juggled around a bit. And the possibility of tax cuts for the rest of us wait around the costs of public expenditure creep ever upwards.

PS. A few days later I received a letter from Tony Newton, Minister of State at the DHSS saying that he had got the £40 millions figure wrong. The savings to employers through no longer having to pay for National Insurance contributions on payments under the SSP scheme should have been £60 millions. He apologised for the mistake and said he had been unable to explain it to the committee because it had only just been discovered. Whoops.

Edwina Currie is Conservative MP for Derbyshire South.

Lord Cledwyn, the Labour leader in the Lords, is speaking for the Liberals on a trip to Moscow last year, recalls holding a young boy by the ankles in the old Russia Hotel opposite the Kremlin to get a photograph on a school trip. He was the young Guy Burgess.

LORD Hailsham, restored to the Woolsack after his bout of '80, will be seeking to reach a compromise with the law lords on the controversial Clause 43 of the Administration of Justice Bill which was postponed because of his illness.

The Lord Chancellor is offering the option of the reference to a divisional court presided over by an appeal judge in place of the reference to the Appeal Court in cases where there is an appeal against the actions of councils and other public bodies. The Bar argues that this is not good enough and there is likely to be a close vote in the debate on the report stage on Thursday.

AFTER the vote on the telephone tapping Bill attacking the "wiretapping report" by Lord Bridge, the Commons will move on to an order continuing police powers to use the dreaded wheel clamp in London. No one appears ready to oppose it, perhaps because they do not live in the Kensington area where it has caused difficulties for the diplomatic corps.

Colin Brown

# An action budget for cheap jobs

RICHARD LAYARD

THE BUDGET is the Chancellor's golden opportunity to reverse the tide of unemployment. Yet he insists that to determine the level of unemployment is more than any government can do. (Hansard, January 31). What a thing to say. Is there anything to support it?

The recent history of the U.S.A. and Britain suggests exactly the opposite, with unemployment directly reflecting budgetary policy. In Britain public expenditure has been held down and tax rates increased. By contrast, in the U.S.A. public expenditure has been allowed to increase, and tax rates have been cut.

The results are exactly what every first year economics student would have predicted. Unemployment has doubled over five years in Britain, while in the U.S. it has fallen by a third in three years and is now back to its 1980 level.

So what exactly should the Chancellor do? He should of course cut taxes (which he may well do), but he should also increase real expenditure. It will be no good at all having tax cuts which are financed by cuts in public expenditure, with no increase in the budget deficit.

Yet this is all that the Chancellor is considering. Instead we must have a somewhat higher budget deficit. Almost all schools of thought (including the Chicago school) agree that this is appropriate in a depression. On present policies the ratio of public debt to national in-

come will be roughly stable (and under one half of what it was in the prosperous 1960s). The ratio ought to be allowed to rise somewhat in a depression, when tax receipts are artificially depressed by the low level of output.

But is it as simple as that? Of course not. For there is always the spectre of inflation lurking around the corner. Inflation can go up either because of falls in the exchange rate or because of wage pressure. To control the exchange rate we have to use interest rates. But how are we to stop wages rising faster if we have more jobs? The answer comes in two parts.

The first is that we must structure the budget measures with extreme care, so that the extra jobs do not generate shortages of up to 100,000 jobs. The second is that we must exert no downwards pressure on wages, because such people have to a large extent stopped looking for work. This means that the numbers of long-term unemployed, this would add little or nothing to the upward pressure on wages. In fact long-term unemployment is almost totally useless and

we should do everything we can to reduce it.

It is also important to look at which skill levels are in short supply. It is of course the higher skills, and only 2 per cent of manufacturing firms are expecting shortages of labour that is not skilled. Thus targeting jobs to the semi- and unskilled is also good economics. This is exactly the area where the U.S. has expanded, and we should be happy to do the same.

So what then are the budget priorities? First, there should be a job guarantee to the long-term unemployed. Within two years the government should be in a position to offer a job on the Community Programme to anyone who has been unemployed for over a year. The public cost per job (after allowing for the savings on unemployment benefit) is about £2,000 a year. So 750,000 jobs could cost only about £1.5 billion.

It is instructive to compare this with the number of jobs that the same money would provide if spent on cuts in income tax. According to the Treasury Model an increase in the deficit of £1.5 billion resulting from income tax cuts would provide only 100,000 jobs. The contrast is so staggering that even though the numbers are rough, anyone who is serious about cutting unemployment is bound to sit up. The merit of a job guarantee to the long-term unemployed is that it appeals as much to the head as to the heart.

The other main need for extra expenditure is on in-

frastructure investment. This can mean all things to all men. I mean, first, structural maintenance of our schools, hospitals, roads and sewers, many of which are in severe disrepair so that unless we spend money now we shall have to spend much more later on. Second, I mean some new building or reconstruction of houses, hostels, roads and sewers. Much of the labour needed here is semi- and unskilled, and again the budget deficit increase per job is much lower for income tax cuts, perhaps £10,000 compared with £25,000 a year.

So what about tax cuts? The obvious tax to cut is the tax on jobs — the employers' National Insurance contribution. There is no evidence that higher income tax allowances would increase total work incentives, but probably the reverse. By contrast there is some evidence that a general cut in taxes on jobs would reduce the underlying rate of unemployment.

However, we can do much better than a general cut in the tax on jobs. The first thing would be to exempt from the jobs tax all long-term unemployed people for the first six months after they were hired. Over two years the cost of this could build up to around £1 billion. These concessions would be neither more nor less valuable to the average firm than a general tax reduction of equal size, and their effects on aggregate demand would be the same. But the effects on inflation would be

far less troublesome, because they are so much better targeted.

Further cuts in the tax on jobs should be geared directly towards job creation. Firms should be exempt from the tax for all new jobs created from now on. Thus if next year a firm expanded the number of jobs it provided by 3 per cent, its tax would be reduced by 3 per cent below what it would otherwise be. This would again be far better than a general cut across the board.

For when a firm is deciding whether to offer more jobs, it thinks only about the cost of the extra jobs, not of the jobs it already provides. So there is no point wasting money on reducing N.I. contributions in general — just reduce the N.I. on new jobs. The cost of complete exemption would again build up to something like £1 billion after two years.

Finally we could try to rejoin National Insurance to encourage in particular the employment of semi- and unskilled workers. At present a worker earning £90 a week costs the firm £9 in tax, and a worker earning £200 costs £21. To encourage the hiring of the low-skilled, we could have a tax-free allowance, so that up to £90 no tax was paid. This would greatly improve the job prospects of less skilled people. It would however be very expensive, and would have to be recouped in part by a higher tax on the skilled, which would help to prevent overheating.

A well-structured budget

# How to hack a path through Sizewell's legal jungle

Jennifer Armstrong

"THE trouble with the public inquiry process" complained an objector at the Sizewell inquiry "is that it's not really public at all. Of course, it's open to the public but the whole business is about as alien to the average member of the public as it could be."

What he was referring to was the quasi-judicial way in which our public inquiries are conducted: an adversarial system in which one side's evidence is tested by the other. Ideally, a barrister, instructed by a solicitor, introduces witnesses, leads them through their evidence and protects them during cross-examination. It is a courtroom confrontation, aiming to score points and de-

molish evidence, and it can include efforts to discredit witnesses as has happened at the Sizewell inquiry.

But this is a public inquiry, held to hear the public's views on one of the most controversial matters of the day. Although strictly about the building of a pressurised water reactor on the east coast of Suffolk, it is generally seen as a debate about the future of the UK's nuclear industry. The remote venue of Snape Maltings, well known for its musical character, the decision to hold three informal meetings in local village halls is recognition of the fact that the inquiry is not a purely judicial exercise. The decision to hold three informal meetings in local village halls is recognition of the fact that the inquiry is not a purely judicial exercise. The decision to hold three informal meetings in local village halls is recognition of the fact that the inquiry is not a purely judicial exercise.

There have been other more surprising areas of imprecision at the Sizewell inquiry where the judicial system has again been unhelpful. At times the inquiry has been operating on the borderline of knowledge, and stable crack growth. If the expert witness cannot be certain, precision for the barrister is impossible. Scientific witnesses have recently remarked that cross-examination did not get to the heart of the problem. The quantity and complex

nature of the material under scrutiny at the Sizewell inquiry demand a robust framework. The hearings have to be highly disciplined and well organised, with no background noise or other distractions. The inspector must have the respect of all parties. Such qualities are not exclusive to the judicial process, and could be incorporated along with other elements in a system more accessible to the public, fair to the participants, and appropriate to the nature of the material under review.

Lawyers have a strong financial incentive to preserve the existing system. But the National Economic Development Office's investigation into major and proposed identifies problems similar to those at the Sizewell inquiry. If found that "the public inquiry process has become altogether too legalistic, too protracted and too expensive to the severe detriment of ordinary people; the system would be fairer to all concerned if the legal/adversarial approach was removed."

Sizewell's Inspector, Sir Frank Kayfield, has taken some novel steps to alleviate the problems. But the legal bias remained particularly punishing to those who took on the role of lay advocate.

Unless there is a radical change in energy policy, the nuclear component looks set to increase. So too does opposition to it. If the Government means what it says about public involvement in the decision-making process, there is a case for reviewing the use of the judicial system.

A Fairer and Faster Route to Major Road Construction.

Jennifer Armstrong is a town planner who gave up her job to help organise opposition to the Sizewell project and research a report on the inquiry as a planning process.

150 من الاجل





THIRD COLUMN

Spend and prosper

TEN years ago the monetarists offered a global remedy for economic ills: reduce the money supply, cut public spending, float a few exchange rates, and the market would steer us towards a new international order. Now, 10 years later, the world economy is still in fully fledged crisis, with no global upturn in sight, no light at the end of the tunnel, and a financial and economic disorder without parallel for 50 years.

Chief villain scripted is the International Monetary Fund, widely seen in Third World countries as the financial fist of First World interests. Certainly, the monetarist counter-revolution against Keynesian orthodoxies legitimised the deepest instincts of the fund on sound money and market policies. But the fund itself is a front organisation for some of the world's leading governments, especially the US, the UK, West Germany, and Japan. It is they who must bear primary responsibility for the scale and depth of the current crisis.

The world today is suffering from a deflationary gap; too little money chasing too few, desperately needed, goods and services. Hundreds of millions of people are under-nourished, under-educated, under-housed, and under-employed.

Giving priority to the fight against inflation means failing in the fight for global development. There is no question that the IMF's deflationary policies deepen the crisis. The IMF recently turned round the import trade of some of the principal Latin American economies, converting a deficit of some \$20 billion into a surplus of \$30 billion. It thereby ignores the fact that it has taken some \$30 billion out of global demand, a formula for slump.

A global challenge must be made by some policy-makers of the First World with many in the Third, through recognising that only global redistribution can ensure economic recovery, and that the prime needs of Third World countries are in social rather than private accumulation.

Priority expenditure on social accumulation and distribution would result in sustained deficits by Third World countries. But one country's deficit is another's export. The First World cannot increase its exports to the Third World if, through IMF policies, it imposes deflation. The issue relates directly to the global debt crisis. President Alfonsín of Argentina has excellent reason to claim that his country can repay its debts — if others will buy its exports.

Global recovery is imperative if we are to escape the integration of the world trade and payments system, triggered by default on Third World debt. A range of economists from several European countries associated with the Club of Rome have identified the scale of the world deflationary gap — the critical counterpart to the inflationary gap with which some Keynesians have been so concerned.

Arguing for recovery, they claim a net expenditure of \$100 billion among the world's nations, with the Third World by some 4-5 per cent a year due to the overwhelming share of the European economies in global trade. Such a sustained annual expenditure thereby not only could create over 20 million jobs in the OECD countries, it also could increase Third World GNP by over half in a new development decade, and enable Third World countries to put much of the debt problem behind them within a few years. Irrespective of reforms to fund, write off or change the terms of debt repayment.

Faced with a second-term Reagan Administration, such arguments may not appear infeasible. Certainly no recovery strategy is probable without a new political coalition out of some First and Third World countries, either with or without cooperation from the US.

The most recent meeting of the leaders of parties of the Socialist International recognised the imperative of a global recovery programme, and endorsed the case for an annual net expenditure of \$100 billion on Out of Crisis Lines.

Such spending is the minimum necessary to transcend the debt crisis.



The rural population, right, suffer while the elite in the cities prosper. Kenneth Kaunda, of Zambia, left, wanted to act on Dumont's prescriptions but was thwarted by his bureaucrats. — Picture by Garry Weaser

The false starts that Africa failed to correct

Rene Dumont, right, 20 years ago foresaw the present crises in agriculture which are devastating Africa. He talks to STANLEY MEISLER about what should be done



IN PARIS in the 1960s, the early days of independence in Africa, many people concerned about Africa's future read and reread a book by a French professor warning that the continent could be heading toward disaster. Now, in the face of terrifying famine, the book was clearly prophetic. Professor Rene Dumont, the author, recalls that he once told a peasant schoolboy in the old French Congo, where women do most of the farming, "If your sister goes to school, you won't have anything to eat but your fountain pen."

Dumont was not criticising equality of opportunity for women but railing against the European school systems, Africa that created elitist Af-

ricans who turned their backs on agriculture.

For 25 years, the teachings of Dumont in that book *False Start* in Africa have been praised and quoted throughout the continent. Several African leaders have even asked Dumont to look more deeply into their countries and come up with specific recommendations. But his ideas have almost never been put into practice.

African leaders have found it difficult to implement the policies that would favour the rural countryside and weaken the power of the elites, with their elaborate, elite-producing school systems.

"In 1963," Dumont said, "I was asked to write a report on

Senegal to President Abdou Diouf, he told me, 'Monsieur Dumont, you are right. We must establish a better balance between the city and the countryside. But I cannot do it, because I do not have the organised political power in the rural areas to counter the organised political power of the urban areas.'

Dumont, who will be 81 next Wednesday, has written more than 20 books about development in the Third World. He still spends time travelling through Africa in search of problems and solutions. His *Stranglehold on Africa* was published in 1980, and another major work, *Starving Africa*, is due to appear in September.

Dumont began his work in Indo-China in 1929. He has completed research in countries as different as Cuba and Bangladesh, and for several decades after the Second World War he taught at the Institute of Political Studies in Paris. In 1974, he ran for President of France on an ecology platform, winning almost 340,000 votes, a little more than 1 per cent of the total.

Dumont shakes his head in disbelief at the stonewalling of bureaucrats, European and African, packing his arguments with outrageous examples of foolish decisions and foolish projects. The incessant growth of what he re-

gards as irrelevant formal education still astounds him.

"In Dakar," he said, "we now have 920 Senegalese who have master's degrees but no jobs. At the beginning, you needed a primary certificate for the right to sell bread. In the 1950s, you needed a junior high school education. Now you need a high school diploma. Perhaps some day you will need a master's degree to sell bread."

Dumont believes the present agricultural disaster comes from the failure of traditional and archaic methods trying to cope with the population explosion. But even more important, he believes that little has been done to solve this problem because African political leaders have continually exploited the rural areas for the benefit of the towns.

"Cities are dangerous for politicians," Dumont said. They are filled with the unemployed. The cities are poor, at least for most of the people who live there. Poor cities must be fed with cheap food. The politicians fix prices for cereals from the countryside at too low a level.

The problem is compounded by the incredible pace of urbanisation in Africa, drawing people from productive farm work into unproductive cities.

"In Mauritania," he says, "400,000 people, one-quarter of the population, now live in the capital of Nouakchott, a city of no agriculture, of no animal-raising, of no industry. It is an artificially created capital, a city of service, of bureaucrats and businessmen. It has factories that are closed and do not function. There is a possibility that there won't be enough water for it in 20 years. The cities cannot employ. The cities cannot provide."

What is needed in the countryside is literacy in the African language, instruction in improved farming techniques, a strategy of food production, and organisation of farmers into pressure groups. At present, the peasants are not a political force. But the cities do not want them to become one.

In Mali, there was an excellent programme for making peasants literate in their native language. But as soon as the programme became large, the government sabotaged it.

"Look, the cities of Europe also exploited the rural areas in the past. But they invested the fruits of their exploitation in factories and productive investment. Down there, they rob the peasants and put the money in large cars and unproductive prestige projects."

In the 1950s, Dumont's

views were so prized that leaders like President Nyerere of Tanzania and President Kaunda of Zambia adopted them as their own.

Nyerere issued official documents on agriculture and education in 1967 and 1968 that were obviously inspired by his reading of Dumont's book. Kaunda made declarations on economics based on what Nyerere said. Both presidents invited Dumont to visit and write reports on their countries. Yet, Dumont insists, neither Tanzania nor Zambia ever followed his recommendations.

In Tanzania, he said, "the bureaucrats either did not understand Nyerere or did not want to understand him. In Zambia in 1978, President Kaunda ordered the national printer to print 500 copies of my report on Zambia as an official document. But after it was published... the administration locked up the copies in a room with all the classified documents on national defence."

"The chief of state had the power to order the printing of the report but not the power to order its distribution. The chiefs of state have their hands tied by their bureaucracies."

For more than 25 years, Dumont has preached that socialists must seek simple solutions to deal with the

traditional shortcomings of African farmers. Education and small loans are more important, in Dumont's view, than elaborate machinery and big projects.

Since the agricultural revolution of the 18th century, Europe has not left large portions of its farmland fallow. Yet African farmers still do. Dumont says that farmers must be taught to build corridors for their animals and to assign guardians to lead them through the corridors.

"Africa," he said, "does not even have sheepdogs."

"Two magnificent dams are going up on the Senegal River at a cost of \$7,000 million," he said. "They are supposed to irrigate 350,000 hectares of land. Right now, they are managing to irrigate an additional 1,000 hectares each year. 'At that rate,' I told a colleague recently, 'I can come back in 250 years when the job is done.'"

"If I had that money, I would split it among each of 400,000 villages of the Sahel, on little projects like the corridors for the animals. In that way, we would get immediate results. I am not against large dams, but we need 10 years of the little projects first."

YEMEN

The hard man returns

Elizabeth Street reports on shifts in the hierarchy after the reappearance of an exiled former president

THE internal politics of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDY) have been shaken by the recent reappearance of an influential figure, the former President Ismail, the former President exiled to the Soviet Union since he was ousted five years ago.

Abdul Fattah's time as secretary-general of the Yemeni Socialist Party from 1969 and President (1978-1980) was marked by orthodoxy and conservatism, but he was also a pragmatist. His successor since April 1980, the Prime Minister, Ali Nasser Mohammed, is seen as a more pragmatic Socialist.

Last month in a move whose implications are still unfolding, Ali Nasser resigned as Prime Minister and Abdul Fattah has rejoined the secretariat of the Socialist Party's Central Committee.

These changes indicate a renewal of the debate of the 1970s with a return of support for orthodox Socialist rhetoric which may jeopardise the achievements and stability of recent years.

The PDY gained independence from Britain in 1967 after four years of armed

struggle. From 1969 onwards, it was guided by the left-wing Yemeni Liberation Front.

It developed into the Yemeni Socialist Party in 1978. The 1970s were dominated by the triumvirate of President Salem Rubaya Ali, who was identified with Maoist policies, Secretary-General Abdul Fattah, and Prime Minister Ali Nasser. The inherent tensions between the exponents of three very different political styles led to the first rupture in 1978 when Salem Rubaya Ali was defeated and executed.

Two days previously an emissary from the PDY blew himself up, together with his target, the then President of the north, his Yemeni Arab Republic. It was widely asserted that Salem Rubaya had been implicated in this plot.

The next two years were marked by instability and poor relations with the YAR, including a small border war in February-March 1979. The fact that Abdul Fattah was President has worsened the situation since as well as being from the north, he believed that the unification of Yemen is an essential precondition for Socialist development was well known.

Leaders in the YAR felt considerable pressure from the south, including military pressure through the intermediary of the National Democratic Front, and direct military pressure as for example, in the February 1979 war.

The exile of Abdul Fattah in 1980 led to other moves which were favourable to the YAR. The YAR capital of Sana'a and the rest of the Peninsula, as well as internally, Ali Nasser's rule has been more relaxed as political rivalries have lessened internal tensions and given greater opportunities for freedom of expressing

Pragmatism has dominated economic policies also.

Peasants and fishermen can now market substantial proportions of their produce through their own private or cooperative channels and do not have to process everything through the slow and inefficient centralised structures. That import restrictions have been eased is shown by the increased amounts of consumer goods in the markets and the numbers of private cars. The private sector has been encouraged to develop through the 1981 investment law aimed primarily at Yemeni emigrants who have accumulated capital while abroad.

While these changes have not transformed an absolutely poor country into a wealthy one, they have taken place without any political compromise on the fundamental question of the country's striding towards socialism.

LETTERS

Healing India

Sir, — Zareer Masani's article (February 15) is extremely one-sided in characterising Hindus as posing a threat to Indian secularism.

Implicitly, he ignores the role of Sikh terrorism and the character of the Sikh party, the Akali Dal, in the events leading up to the present unforced migration of Sikhs in the Punjab.

Indeed, threat to Indian secularism as well as democracy was initiated not by Hindus but by the Sikh extremists whose campaign of bigotry against Hindus in the Punjab, hatred against moderate Sikhs who upheld communal harmony and intolerance against dissident Sikh Nirankaris was a far greater challenge to Indian secularism.



Many Sikhs "turned against the Akali Dal"

Even the Akali Dal of which Mr Masani writes with a great deal of sympathy has never been a model of secularist behaviour. Its appeal has always been narrow and parochial even when some of the issues it campaigned for are entirely economic and have important implications for non-Sikhs in the Punjab.

For example, its quite legitimate demands for the transfer of Chandigarh to the Punjab as capital and for a greater Punjab share of river waters are equally relevant to Hindus who constitute 48 per cent of the Punjab's population.

In spite of its parochialism

and the self-proclaimed role as the champion of Sikh interests, the Akali Dal has never commanded majority support even among the Sikhs in the Punjab, never mind the three million Sikhs who live in India outside the Punjab.

A substantial number of urban, educated, and lower cast Sikhs have consistently shown a lofty disdain to the party's narrow sectarian concerns and turned to secular parties like the Congress and the Communists.

Masani accuses the Indian government of denying the Sikhs their democratic rights. It is sad and unfortunate that

they were unable to join the 250 million Indians who voted in the recent historic elections. But what Masani conveniently forgets is that along with the Sikhs nearly five million Punjabi Hindus were also precluded from exercising their democratic rights.

The suspension of these rights cannot be blamed on the Indian government but must be laid at the doors of the terrorists who rendered the normal democratic process impossible in the Punjab.

Masani's conclusion that Rajiv Gandhi's landslide victory was caused by a "Hindu backlash" is nothing more than speculation. The results show that the electorate was equally divided between the ruling Congress (I) and the Opposition.

This is hardly evidence of the whole Hindu community flocking to vote for Rajiv in an act of vengeful solidarity and in expectation of retribution against Sikhs.

Of course, the Indian government cannot escape liability for the present tragedy of Sikhs both in and outside the Punjab. Congress (I) cynically promoted and exploited the division of state, and in the process created a monster. The government's handling of the Delhi riots was inept and callous and its reluctance to order a judicial inquiry is both insensitive and grossly unwelcome.

However, if democracy and secularism are to survive both the majority and minority communities must be committed to these ideals. — Yours sincerely, (Dr) P. S. Sudarsanan, University of Leeds.

Sudan aid

Sir, — Victoria Brittain's article on the Tigrajan influx into Eastern Sudan (February 9) highlighted the fact that my country is no longer able to

help her neighbours as readily as in the past.

We have always had a generous open-door policy towards refugees and for many years now have been host to Ethiopians, Tigrajan, Eritreans, Chadians, Zairis, and Ugandans. With the support of UN and various other organisations they have been well cared for, integrated, and resettled.

But Sudan is a poor country, also suffering from the worst drought in its history, and is no longer capable of dealing with the logistic problems of feeding the current waves of starving new incomers. Doctors working in the camps are faced with a tide of human misery that is beyond their powers to alleviate. They are often able only to treat the healthiest among the sick.

Now Sudan has to cope with another influx, this time from the west: hundreds of thousands of Sudanese and Chadian refugees. The drought in Kordofan and Darfur, and we are ourselves faced with widespread famine, as in the Red Sea hills.

The problem is that even if an accelerated flow of emergency aid manages to contain widespread starvation, we may soon no longer have sufficient productive land to resettle and rehabilitate the growing millions of refugees and internal migrants alike.

There is no question that Sudan will do everything in its power to assist those in need, but its resources are rapidly diminishing whilst the number of people dependent on them is increasing.

The people and government of the richer countries should recognise the generosity shown by Sudan towards her displaced neighbours, and likewise give help in our hour of need.

(Dr) A. Sahel, London Hospital Medical College.

NORTH/SOUTH

The Bhopal alternative

SOON it will be ten years since governments promised the UN to do more to provide better homes for their urban poor, yet Earthscan has just produced a report — a sobering backdrop written on the premise that "as many as a billion people may be without a decent home."

Urban Land and Shelter for the Poor, written by Patrick McAuslan, who teaches law at Warwick University and has worked on planning projects in Africa and India, explores with chilling detachment the scope for future "Bhopals" in — for instance — Mexico City, Delhi, Manila, Sao Paulo, Lima, Lagos, Bangkok, Cairo, and Karachi.

Each has its shabby towns, he writes, with at least a million people in each, many living "on the edge of the economy and the edge of the law."

Bush call

African musicians from Congo, Senegal, Mali, Zaire, Nigeria, and elsewhere have now joined forces in Paris to make a record for famine relief in Ethiopia. Tim Tim, their Franco-African band, has just released its first LP, yielding £120,000 in its first two weeks for Medicines Sans Frontiers.

Thirty-one musicians are involved. The song was written by Mambo Dikongo with Pierre Kende, probably the best-selling African group in Europe, joined by Les

King Sunny Ade — in Afro

Band Aid for Ethiopia

Ambassadors of Mali, Bobomb Stars and Moamina, and others including Sunny Ade.

Sales are expected to exceed 250,000 in France alone, and a massive concert in Paris is being planned. Note to Nigel Lawson: the French government has found a way of refunding the 33 per cent VAT.

Opec pays

IFAD, the Rome-based Fund for Agricultural Development, lives on — in much reduced circumstances, alterations between the US government and their counterparts in OPEC as to who should give how much replenishment have apparently been resolved. OPEC, it now transpires, will contribute slightly more than twice as much as the Americans to a sharply reduced budget.

ON MONDAY, in Geneva, the UN's Conference on Emergency Aid to Africa will get under way.

Once again the cry will go out for more cash and food. The Secretary-General has said \$1,500 millions is needed immediately to meet urgent needs in just 20 countries affected in Africa.

Michael Simmonds

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TO MOST people working in the arts and entertainments industries, the last few months of debate about the proposed new more destructive and unconstructive. Effort and time is wasted when one art form rails against another, when one company criticises another, or when yet another useless lobby or rally is convened to defend a political party or attempt to draw attention to the fact that a five per cent uplift in subsidies would make all the difference to the development of an industry which employs 584,000 people against the level of 485,000

Since then the professional training of arts administrators has developed at the City University to such an extent that the detailed estimates compiled from those prepared by more than 1,000 organisations are tried and tested and tempered to reach the exact minimum amount required to sustain the industry. So who are the Treasury officials who consider these estimates can

In such ways one can compile the achievements and calculate the return to the Treasury. Leonard Bernstein

So what is the return to the Treasury? First and quite simply the VAT on admission tickets. Cats would not have involved were it not for Trevor Nunn's experience gained at the RSC and the dancers involved who were trained by several leading ballet companies. The VAT collected by the Treasury on Cats in London now amounts to £3 million, and the advance bookings on the three American productions at present total \$314 million.

But the arts and entertainments industry cannot stand still: it develops or withers. So, quite apart from a 10 per cent uplift to sustain the work of

With small amounts of extra support the main boards of management throughout the regions can shoulder more responsibility: the orchestras can develop music-making from the small-scale touring of chamber groups to buying in jazz outfits; the major drama

C. If they are not prepared to invest that 10 per cent more in the one industry which is really thriving, and if they are also not prepared to offer tax incentives to prospective sponsors, then they might turn their attention to tax incentives to individuals and organisations who are willing to invest in the entertainment industry. They

**Anthony Field, chief executive of Theatre Projects, was finance director of the Arts Council for 27 years.**



was the first. Little Richard's confessions make other people's confessions seem like baby talk. He's got to be difficult to love like a real sinner at all in his company. "It's true, I had a good time. I did it all in the hall and on the wall. I used to love boys. I was the orgy getter. I used to be the one who used to invite the girls to take off their clothes. I used to invite the boys to take off their clothes. And we had everything popping like bubble-gum all over the place." He comes from rock 'n' roll, not from a revivalist star to evangelist preacher might seem a huge one until you meet Little Richard in the flesh. Then it quickly



live-talk and pleasant sounding nonsense designed to appear to all sections of the audience to be the gutter-most of the underworld." Today he will happily pause in mid-sentence to inform you that man shall not live by bread alone, Matthew 4:4; in the old days, he just opened his mouth and said Amen. Awop-Boo-a-Loo-Moo. Alop-Bam-Boom. Tutti Frutti.

Little Richard is staying at the Hilton in a room with a high bow window high above Hyde Park from which he keeps looking down on the whole London. All these interviews, he complains lightly, have given him a headache. People keep phoning him up asking him to do concerts. What's the

Ricardo Wayne Penniman became the attention-seeker of the 1960s, the loudest, the most magnetic, the most energetic and probably the best rocker there has ever been. Being born with an arm and a leg so much shorter than the others he was never able to walk properly and was forced to develop a strangely effeminate gait. The other boys called him sissy or faggot. His father wanted seven sons, as his father had before him. Instead, he had one that God had given him six.

The sexual ambiguity which has been Little Richard's most influential gift to rock 'n' roll witness Jagger, Jagger, James Brown, David

another friend that got shot in the head. And I felt that God was calling me. "You're next Richard. You're next." I thought about it and the name of Ricky. He shot himself in the head. Then my mother died. And I felt that was definitely a message to get closer. I'm God's child now. You better believe me. I know myself. I know your message. God's child." And the greatest rock 'n' roller there ever was fixes me with those large, made-up eyes of his and winks, and I know he's kidding me. But he still wears false eye-lashes.

*The Life and Times of Little Richard*, by Chester White, is published by Fawcett, price £2.95.



third movement—eventually to involve the entire cast of 30 dancers in a long section in which the couple achieve a “higher state” while the fast coda suggests to Corder “a celebration of creativity, inspiration, energy and action.

“But all action” is his credo; he’s not interested, yet, in tackling dramatic subjects and is reluctant to provide programme notes. He likes audiences to have freedom to interpret his dances as they wish.

The title, Number Three, relates to all aspects of the ballet: three movements of the concerto; three principal dancers, three backdrops by the American painter Helen

Corder, now 29, was taken at the age of 3½ to see his first pantomime, *Aladdin*, at the Streatham Little Theatre. He knew that that was what he wanted to do and began collecting records of ballet music as acquiring them as Christmas or birthday presents for himself. He gave up dancing for simple ballet lessons to Nancy Robinson in Streatham. He was lucky to have found, while still so young, a gifted and sympathetic teacher. She encour-

At the same time he has pursued a successful career as a classical dancer of power and stamina with the Royal, the Dutch National, the Jefferey, and Chicago ballet companies.

Since the summer of 1983 Michael Corder has been a professional dancer, as well as a choreographer for entertainers as varied as the New Sadler's Wells Opera (The Gondoliers) and an MGM feature film (Electric Blue). But his heart is in classical ballet.

day, Carmen Lombardo, with Richard Armstrong, and the Radio City Orchestra, with Charles Arthur Davis, as Duke, Tom Fox as Escamillo and Cynthia Buchanan as Carmen. **Travelers** (a promising new play) tonight. **Travelers** (a promising new play) tomorrow evening. **New Opera North productions** by Swiss Francis Poulenc's **Requiem**, with Helen Fennell as the soprano and Admiral Macdonald as Alfredo and Johnathan Summers as Germont. Also in the Leeds repertoire **Tamara Janez** (tomorrow Friday), the story of Philip the Arab, the slave in Robert Dunsford's translation, with Macdonald's translation, with Felicity Palmer, Eiddwen Harriby, and Sally Ranger, and **Leviathan** (tomorrow Saturday), the story of a young man, and **The Godfather** (Tuesday, Thursday).

**Kerns** (Coliseum tomorrow, Tuesday, Thursday). Highly entertaining and theatrical, starring by Nicholas Hytner. **Authoritative** conducted by Charles Mackerras, with William Thomas as the Fielding. **Emotionally** credible, and very amusing from Ann Murray as the title role. Valerie MacIntosh, Lesley Garrett, Christopher Robson.

**Tom Sutcliffe**



STEPHEN Wakelam's *Dead-  
lars*, described as an honest  
exploration of the news media,  
comes to the Royal Court with  
a *Uptake* in a joint stock  
production. Simon Curtis di-  
rects. Kathryn Pogson and  
John Jeason feature. An all-  
female cast plays *The Taming  
of the Shrew* at the Theatre  
Royal, Stratford East, in a new  
production by Uite with music  
by Martin Duncan. Michael  
Crawford returns in *Baroque*  
at the Victoria Palace. The Vic-  
torian Theatre Company offers  
Heiner Mueller's *Hamlet* and  
Bambule Machine at the Café  
Notting Hill. OOPS presents

**Barney Hoskyns**

**Mary Clarke**

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## FROM 1765

and a new ballet

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1039-1043.









## DIARY

TODAY'S story about freedom of speech begins in Southall, travels via the Indian High Commission, and ends in Luxembourg. Two Sikhs and a Hindu from West London's Asian community, feeling that Sikhs have had a raw deal over the last year or two, decided to make some radio programmes about Sikh religion and culture. Radio Luxembourg agreed to transmit two of them as an experiment.

Being a bit nervous about the Sikhs, the Indian High Commission listened to the 15 minute broadcast, which consisted mainly of scriptures and folk songs. But there was also a message of congratulations from Dr Jagjit Singh Chohan, the self-proclaimed president of the national Sikh homeland of Khalistan. He has not been popular in Delhi — or with Mrs Thatcher — ever since he predicted after the storming of the Golden Temple in Amritsar that some young man, some day, would "take Mrs Gandhi's head off." The High Commission decided to try to silence Khalisa Voice.

A few hours before the second slot on March 5, Radio Luxembourg told the makers they were cancelled. It was a cruel twist. The director for the station would only say yesterday that the decision followed complaints from the High Commission "among other people."

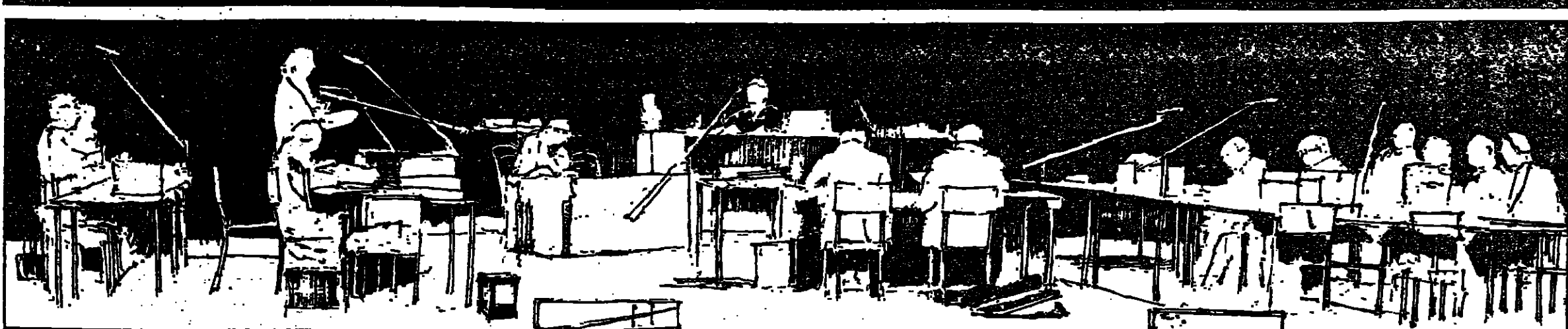
Mr Pyare Shivpuri, producer of the programmes, has another theory — that Delhi got in touch with Paris, using the leverage of the recent spy scandal involving French diplomats in Delhi and France's desire to sell Mirages to India, and France got in touch with the Duchy of Luxembourg which controls the station's broadcasting licence. The director for the station would only say yesterday that the decision followed complaints from the High Commission "among other people."

THE DIARY's recent picture of Bernard Ingham, first proof of the existence of the Prime Minister's never-named mouthpiece, draws a confirming letter from Hilary Davies, of *Knightsbridge*. "Bernard Ingham does indeed exist," she says. "I knew his parents, his aunt, his cousins and Derek, his brother. We attended socials together at the Trades Club in Hadden Bridge where his father was a widely-respected member of the Labour Party and chairman of the local council. I remember Bernard as an attractive, gentle, caring and concerned young man." Well, you can't expect people never to change.

GENERAL Winter took his toll of the Commander Heestler's forces in the Wolesworth campaign, which fell during last month's cold spell. Wind chill factor was sometimes down to minus 25°C, and there were more than 600 visits to the medical centre by contractors, soldiers and MOD plods. The MOD says there were cases of hypothermia and one policeman had a frostbitten nose and ears. The base commander went down with pneumonia. As did the MOD police federation representative: he is now pressing for improvements in his members' working conditions.

THERE is an embarrassing mistake on a large number of 1,000 franc notes of the CFA, the currency common to the west and central African countries which used to be French colonies. The error, noticed by the Central Bank of Cameroon, shows Chad to be only two thirds of its official size. The northern third is, in fact, controlled by the Yanhukoum Government of Sir Koukou Goudou, but the official government has not let go of it yet and is proud that it has just been written off by an imaginative cartographer. Chad has devalued the notes' withdrawal, but there are apparently too many of them in circulation already.

Stephen Cook



Arthur Scargill, standing left gives evidence to Sir Frank Layfield, centre Artists impression by Keith Pilling

David Fairhall and Roger Milne summarise twenty-six months of Sizewell

# Nuclear power in the Maltings pot

DOES Britain need more nuclear power stations? And if so, should the next one — and almost certainly the three or four beyond that — use an American pressurised water reactor (PWR) similar to the Three Mile Island plant which came so near to catastrophe in 1979? These are the questions this country's longest running public inquiry has been addressing over the past 26 months, generating tons of paper and millions of expensive lawyer's words in the unlikely setting of the Snape Maltings concert hall.

For the past year, the hearings have been conducted against a background of the miners' strike, vividly highlighting the Central Electricity Generating Board's argument that it must have more nuclear capacity to reduce its dependence on coal and the National Union of Mineworkers. Arthur Scargill himself made a notable appearance as advocate for former Labour Energy Minister Tony Benn.

Other witnesses ranged from an Australian aborigine called to explain the uranium mining connection to the dissident Atomic Energy Authority scientist Rodney Fordham, who feared the reactor pressure vessel might explode, from the Conservative party chairman John Gummer, worried about lorry traffic on the Suffolk roads, to the Mayor of Harrisburg, who claimed he distinctly remembered "the metallic taste of radioactive iodine" when the Three Mile Island PWR began to melt.

Perhaps the most notable absentee as a witness was the CEBG chairman, the ever-calm Sir Walter Marshall, friend of Mrs Thatcher and known before his appointment as a vigorous advocate of the PWR and of the Westinghouse design in particular. Had he appeared, he would have had the embarrassing job of explaining why the Americans themselves have stopped ordering PWRs since Three Mile Island, whoever designs them. Dozens have been cancelled, however, including a large number already under construction.

The fact that Sir Walter's previous job was chairman of the UK Atomic Energy Authority did nothing to dispel objectors' suspicions that without the generating board's financial resources,

and with a government openly committed to the expansion of nuclear power, they were wasting their time. After all, the CEBG had already started ordering key components. Whatever the planning inspector Sir Frank Layfield QC might think or recommend, the outcome was a foregone conclusion.

The immense care the CEBG took over its case, masterminded by board member John Baker, does not bear this out. It has had to pick up a formidable bill of at least £10-15 million, though this should admittedly be seen in the perspective of an investment programme totalling perhaps £5,000 million to complete the "minimally family" of four or five PWRs. Sizewell B on its own will cost an estimated £1,147 million. But al-

though the inquiry was nominally concerned only with permission under the Electricity Lighting Act to build a single station on the Suffolk coast near Aldeburgh, it soon became clear that it would probably determine the future of nuclear power well into the next century.

A whole range of much wider issues were in fact explored, often like the details of Britain's plutonium exports to the US, for the first time. The Board may have scored handsomely with the miners' strike, but it had to admit that earlier generalisations about the cheapness of nuclear power had been based on historic, written down costs. Its future economic case was seen to be dependent on debatable forecasts of fossil fuel prices. John Baker even announced

that he personally was in favour of building one of the objects' favourite schemes — the Severn tidal barrage.

Meanwhile the immediate nuclear alternative to the PWR, the British advanced gas cooled reactor (AGR) had begun after all to justify its early promise, and before the marathon inquiry ended, the South of Scotland Electricity Board had come out in open opposition to the CEBG, claiming that a programme of AGRs would be significantly more economic. So what will the inspector recommend? To the end he maintained an inscrutable legal propriety which makes guesswork difficult. Where safety is concerned he seems likely to lean on the expertise of the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, while castigating it for its slow re-

ponse to his prompting. On the economic side he could echo the Scottish generating board's enthusiasm for the British AGR, a disturbing piece of patriotism from the CEBG's point of view. He could simply recommend using the three years the southern board still has in hand to look once more at the alternatives, including a renewed effort at energy conservation. In the current political climate, none of this is likely to matter one way or the other as far as the Energy Secretary's final decision is concerned. But if by the time Sir Frank finishes his report a range of government is in prospect, or there has been another nuclear accident, every word will count.

David Fairhall

## The long battle against the odds

A VETERAN of many public inquiries once dubbed the process similar to "punching balloons" in the case of Sizewell there were plenty of hard facts for the objectors to cut their teeth on, though equally there was much that the inspector found conflicting and confusing. Many of his conclusions will plainly have to rely on judgment: he was constantly asking for help in weighing up the relative merits of material argued in front of him.

Opponents of the Board attacked the safety of the American technology pointing to the world's worst nuclear power station accident, the Three Mile Island incident, which crippled a PWR reactor similar in basic design to Sizewell B. A group of Suffolk parish councils flew in the Mayor of Harrisburg, the Pennsylvania city closest to TMI, to counter the board's reassurances. The experts told us that would be said, he told Sir Frank. Friends of the Earth concentrated on the numbers behind the Board's approach to safety and the CEBG's evaluation of the likelihood of major or minor accidents affecting the operation of the reactor.

Much inquiry time was taken up with scientific and mathematical argument on the possibility of plant breakdowns happening only once in one million reactor operating years. It was the latterday equivalent of the medieval debate about angels on pinheads.

FOE's case was that the board had underestimated the risks and failed to incorporate all reasonable possibilities in its design guidelines. In some cases, claimed FOE, the Board had breached its own safety standards. More philosophic safety issues were raised by the Town and Country Planning Association and the Stop Sizewell B Association. The former questioned the wisdom of introducing light water reactor technology to the UK at a stage when American researchers were showing renewed interest in gas-cooled systems. Professor Jim Jeffery, for the SSBA, queried the sense of using a power source, nuclear fission, which demanded more and more complex safeguards, when the ultimate aim was to produce electricity for such mundane tasks as boiling kettles.

The TCPA was the only party seriously to challenge the safety of the massive steel pressure vessel, the "heart" of the PWR. In the past the TCPA's stance would have been partial, if not complete, support from metallurgists like Sir Alan Cottrell, one-time chief government scientist, who publicly doubted whether steel reactor pressure vessels could be manufactured to a sufficiently high standard. The Board showed that it took the risk of pressure vessel failure seriously by establishing a special Inspectorate Validation Centre to test each checking the metal for potential flaws which could lead the component to explode when in service. Sir Alan is chairman of the committee overseeing the work of the centre.

The Board had less success in meeting fears about the cancer risk posed by nuclear plant. This topic was raised by the East Anglian-based SSBA, echoing the concern of people living close to the Sizewell site where a cluster of leukaemia cases has

been reported from amongst both local residents and workers at the existing Sizewell A Magnox nuclear plant.

The association called in medical and epidemiological experts who argued that the nuclear industry and those setting internationally accepted standards had radically underestimated the carcinogenic effect of low-level radioactivity.

Both the Greater London Council, whose inquiry bill was, at over £400,000, the largest of any of the objectors, and unions representing brown and ambulant staff, part of the Anti-PWR consortium, raised points about emergency planning and the effects of a serious nuclear accident on East Anglia and, if the wind blew in the right direction, London. Evacuation plans were either inadequate or unproven, they said.

Dr Ross Hesketh, formerly a CEBG scientist, played a major role for the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, which pursued the potentially explosive issue of links between civil and military nuclear power. It argued that plutonium from civil reactors may have been diverted for weapons use, specifically in the US, in the past and might in the future. This proved one of the most difficult areas for the inquiry with questions of national security and a dearth of publicly available data preventing a conclusive debate.

Bodies like the TCPA, the Council for the Protection of Rural England, the Electricity Consumers Council and the GLC insisted that the Board's economic argument for proceeding with Sizewell B depended on forecasts of fossil fuel prices, energy demand and, crucially, the CEBG's own ability to construct power stations on time and within budget. The Board's forecasts, they argued, were either flawed or unreasonably optimistic.

The Suffolk Preservation Society claimed the Board had breached its statutory duty by selecting the Suffolk coast, in an area of outstanding natural beauty, as the site for Britain's first PWR. Hinkley Point, in Somerset, is where the first should be located because of greater benefits to the national grid, said the SPS which, embarrassed the Board by quoting from a clutch of confidential CEBG documents and memoranda on siting policy, which it claimed supported this view.

Reprocessing, along with reactor choice, was the issue which showed how much the mask of a united nuclear industry has slipped. The inquiry learnt that the Board is considering long term central storage for its future spent fuel, keeping the reprocessing option open while it wrangles with BNFL over the cost of using the Sellafield plant. This revelation, in turn, gave yet another twist to the heated question of radioactive waste management and policy. As the inquiry wore on, the absence of approved disposal facilities for both low and intermediate-level waste — and the confounding blizzard over the hunt for land based dumps — took on a greater significance. So much so that the board revealed contingency plans to store these categories of waste on site at Sizewell if dumps, or the sea disposal route, weren't available by the time Sizewell B is operating.

Roger Milne



## FACT FILE

THE essential feature of a PWR (pressurised water reactor) is that it uses ordinary "light" water to cool its uranium fuel instead of the carbon dioxide gas hitherto used in British nuclear power stations. The water is contained under great pressure inside a relatively small reactor vessel (designed in this instance by the American Westinghouse corporation and built by the French firm Framatome) which must be built to the highest standards in case some tiny flaw allows it to split open. Any major loss of coolant is dangerous because the reactor core overheats and the remaining water turns partially to steam, a mixture that valves and controls may not be able to cope with. Emergency cooling is by specially treated water, a useful simplicity,

but engineers face a generic problem with the PWR — that when something serious goes wrong disaster may be only minutes away, whereas gas-cooled reactors give them several hours to think and react.

If the Sizewell PWR is built as planned, the timetable would be:

December 1985 — Inspector submits report and recommendations to Energy Secretary.

January 1986 — Nuclear Installations Inspectorate issues site licence.

Late spring 1986 — Government gives planning consent; CEBG begins final review of project and submits planning application for the first of three or four identical follow-on stations at Hinkley Point, Somerset.

Spring 1987 — The building starts

1993 — Sizewell B commissions, three years ahead of capacity demand.

The war of words, top; Sir Frank Layfield, below left, and FOE's Des Wilson, right. Pictures Frank Martin, Garry Weaser



## The marathon Sizewell paper chase

"IN REPORTS I have written no government has sought to influence me in any way whatever and I do not anticipate they will attempt to do so. In the most unlikely event that they should attempt to do so, you can be absolutely assured it will not influence what I have to say." That was Sir Frank Layfield's unequivocal response to an objector's claim that the Government might exert subtle or not so subtle pressure on his report of the Sizewell B public inquiry.

By the end of the hearings all those taking part were unanimous in their admiration for Sir Frank's stamina and obvious independence of mind. Everyone agrees that the inquiry was thorough, with virtually no stone left unturned. Not only did it consider at exhaustive length such arcane topics as

uranium coal fields in 20 years' time and the energy efficiency of 21st century dish washers.

As an event it was not a crowd-puller. The ubiquitous "man on the Leiston omnibus" stayed away, leaving the 800-seater concert hall embarrassingly empty most days. But an enormous number of individuals, government departments, nuclear organisations and others took part.

Three evening meetings held in a village hall and a local cinema (Sir Frank appeared on the bill alongside Flash Gordon) attracted nearly 1,000 people a sign that apathy about the issues was not as rife as attendances at the main hearing suggested.

A central figure in the marathon was Henry Brooke, QC, brought in as inquiry counsel to ask questions on behalf of the Inspector.

Nicknamed "babbling" Brooke, particularly by the long suffering transcript writers, he also acted as the unofficial counsel for groups without heavyweight legal fire power. This went some way to redressing the balance between the legal resources available to the main parties and those, like most objectors, operating on the basis of jumble sales and charity.

When the inspector felt areas needed special clarification he did not hesitate to ask other experts to appear. The contribution of one of those, Sir Alistair France, chief executive of the giant multinational Rio Tinto Zinc, prompted the CEBG to make drastic changes in the way the project would be managed.

The objectors, a mix of national and environmental groups and more locally based antinuclear power

campaigners, coordinated their cases in a bid to broaden the field of attack and prevent too much repetition. They were helped by a disadvantage in coping with the sheer volume of documents thrown up by the hearing: a number of occasions, though, they were able to make use of the US Freedom of Information Act to tease out documents unavailable in this country. Arm twisting behind the scenes and an appeal to the powers of the inspector to require disclosure forced the CEBG to produce its capital investment memorandum in 1983 which showed clearly that it wanted to build a series of PWRs, a stance denied formally at the hearing until then.

One other feature made the inquiry unique. This was the appearance of the Nuclear Installations Inspector-

ate, the government's independent safety watchdog.

For the first time in public it was possible to see how the safety watchdog carries out the licensing of a new type of nuclear reactor. This was clearly a chastening experience for the NII (and the Board) and raised questions about its effectiveness. Funding for objectors was an issue at the outset: it remained so at the close. If the government seriously wants organisations and individuals to exercise their democratic right to participate in big public inquiries, that kettle will have to be grasped. There may never be another inquiry on the same scale and format of Sizewell B but the last 26 months has shown, again, that strategic decisions involving public policy are too important to be left to the experts.

Roger Milne

## The for front

THE CEBG's case for Sizewell B is that Britain needs more nuclear power both to ensure the best of electricity and to reduce dependence on coal — a commercial consideration that has acquired strong political overtones since the miners' strike and the emergence in the Government's mind of the "Scargill factor".

If the need for more nuclear capacity is accepted, the Board claims the cheapest form currently available is the American water cooled design, the PWR, which has been adopted by France, Japan, and most other countries interested in civil nuclear power.

As for the indigenous British advanced gas cooled design, now beginning to perform well after a dreadful start, the generating board's calculations still indicate that its higher annual availability will be outweighed by the PWR's lower capital cost and longer lifetime.

The Board does not totally dismiss the alternatives to nuclear power. It points out that 80 per cent of its present capacity is coal fired and that whatever happens to the PWR programme, its power stations will continue to be heavily dependent on coal well into the next century. It agrees that many of the alternative schemes proposed by objectors are desirable in themselves — for example a coal fired station on the Thames whose waste heat could be used to heat London's housing — and that the so-called "renewable" energy sources will have a modest role to play.

After Three Mile Island, the emotive subject of nuclear safety never going to be easy for the CEBG. This part of the Board's case has three main planks: first an assurance that the lessons of the American accident have been learned and where necessary incorporated in operating practices that were anyway quite different; second, a promise to introduce additional safety features in the Sizewell B design to meet British standards, such as extra emergency cooling circuits and a double containment building; and finally a calculation that a serious accident leading to a dangerous release of radioactivity should only happen once in a million years. For anybody but a statistician, the Board argues, such a risk is as small as to be "incredible".

David Fairhall



# 'You have about 500 wines to choose from, including unusual bottles for browsers'



DON'T be misled by the zany illustrations of the Oodbins comic wine list and graffiti-style signs. It is all done by design — and a full-time art department — to make you feel at ease in any of the 80 shops (to say nothing of the three in Paris). Once inside you have 400-500 wines to choose from, covering all the major wine-producing areas, but also including unusual bottles for the careful browser.

A recent tasting provided a comparison of three Chardonnays. A premier-cru Chablis, Moreau (1983, £2.95), Louis Michel (1983, £3.45), shows the elegance and depth which makes good Chablis so popular, and it will continue to drink well for several years. Pouilly-Vinzelles 1983, Loran (1983, £2.25), can give many a Pouilly-Fuisse a run for its money.

With its clean, almost creamy taste. The third wine is from St. Bris (a commune SW of Chablis better known for its Sauvignon). Domaine St. Prix 1982 (£3.60) has a distinctively Chardonnay nose and an attractive balance of fruit and acidity.

If Sauvignon is more your style, try contrasting the blackcurrant New Zealand Montana Sauvignon Blanc 1982 or 1983 with the lighter but equally fresh Touraine Sauvignon 1983 from the co-operative at Oisly & Thesee (£2.80).

Italy's most fashionable white wine is Pinot Grigio, and one of the best is Pinot Grigio 1983, Catenacci (1983, £2.70). From Australia, the splendid Brown Brothers Milawa Muscat Blanc 1982 (£3.95), reveals how joyfully "new" white wine can be. From California, Paul Masson's Pinnacles Gewürztraminer 1982 (£3.19), a huge, glycerine-

laden wine, assaults the senses with lychees.

For a more traditional but highly distinguished wine, hope to find one of the remaining bottles of Kaiser Nieschen Auslese 1976. Bischoffliche Weinlager (1982, £2.25), a top-quality Ruster wine from an outstanding vintage, now at its peak.

Turning to reds, Oodbins are particularly strong in French country wines at keen prices. Acceptable for every-day drinking, in ascending order of both quality and price, are Coteaux de Peyzac (£1.50) a vin de pays from the Minervois co-operative; Cotes du Roussillon (1979), a big, fruity, tannic mouthful; and Chateau de Villeneuve 1983 (£1.99), a VDQS Minervois, which is pleasantly gutsy in the southern style.

Further enjoyable gulping can be found in the Beaujolais section. The 1984 Beaujolais Nouveau is mostly past it by now, but even in Novem-

ber it was easily outlasted by Beaujolais Villages 1983, Beaujolais Propriete (1983, £2.95), which has true Gamay flavour, nice balance, and a surprisingly long finish. Further up the scale, Julienas 1983 from Francois Condemine (£4.79) shows why 1983 is considered the best Beaujolais vintage in 20 years: a lovely big wine with fruit and acidity in perfect balance, equally appealing now or in one or two years' time.

Claret sells well at Oodbins, and it is worth exploring the range of petit-chateau wines in person, since the list cannot keep up with the speedy turnover. Hardly surprising when you realise that several of the wines cost less than £3 a bottle, and those at higher prices are fine enough to repay cellaring.

"Blended and branded" is usually a put-off, but a splendid exception is Geoffrey Roberts Red from California,

a particular bargain at £2.89. When you think that £3 will buy you where it's grown. Also splendid value is a Rioja, Marques de Caceres Reserva 1975 (£2.95), whose Bordeaux-trained proprietor matures his wines longer in bottle than in oak, thus achieving a delicious balance of flavours. The Italian reds include such goodies as Chianti Risotto 1981 (£2.39), and from Chile there is an interesting Cabernet Sauvignon, Concha y Toro 1980 (£2.99), with the traditional blackcurrant flavours enlivened by aromatic, even smoky, overtones.

A couple of contrasting dessert wines to consider are Ch Fihout 1979 (£7.99), a delicious Sauternes which will improve for five years or more; and Moulin Touschais 1981 (£7.50), the honeyed Chenin from Anjou which has ousted Muscat de Beaumes de Venise from many dinner tables.

If you enjoy sparkling wine, you will find Oodbins' prices competitive and the selection wide, including the Philipponnat Rose (£8.95) which was joint top choice in which? Wine Monthly's recent survey of pink champagne: "...a pale and beautiful apricot... good yeasty smell... fresh rich fruit... good balance." Marc Brault's Veuve (1983) and Varichon & Ciere's Blanc de Blancs (£4.15), both made by the champagne method, are respectable alternatives in which to toast a bride. And a curiosity to bemuse friends at a blind tasting is the Italian Malvasia di Carmignano (£2.75), a naturally fizzy wine which is bone dry but strong on Muscatel flavour.

Oodbins' shelves include the superb Palo Cortado from Lustau (£2.95) and Garvey's San Patricio (£2.99), as well as other aperitifs at bargain prices. Pick up that com- cutes wine list; it is highly in-

formative and nicely opinionated. Thanks to John Vaughan-Hughes, MW. Even the mineral waters have last- ing notes. The staff are knowledgeable and unstuffy. You can borrow glasses for a party, buy ice, pay with Access or Visa, and even shop by post from 80 Wapping High Street, London E11. Prices are marginally higher but include delivery.

A word of warning: this is always an uncertain time of the budget looming large. Added complications in 1985 are a skidding pound and the icy temperatures, which some wines in transit react to as the rest of us do. Hence delayed shipments from Europe. You may not, therefore, find all the wines described here in the quoted vineyards and at the quoted prices.



"The label is colourful and the price amusing..."

Aileen Hall



ISABELLA d'EST, visiting Venice, inconspicuously in a March 1502, wrote to her husband that she and her sister-in-law Elizabeth Gonzaga had "landed at the Rialto and walked through the fish market and the Merceria to the columns of San Marco. There were such crowds of people that it was difficult to make our way but we enjoyed it so much that we did not mind the walk." A few years after her visit, Erasmus was living in Venice in a house near the Rialto and later complained (in the *Colloquia familiaria*) about the food he ate there.

Tourists still remark on the crowds and the food, but most agree with Elizabeth Barrett Browning who wrote three centuries later that "nothing is like it, nothing equal to it, not a second Venice in the world."

The worst crowds can be avoided by going to Venice off season. The market areas around the Rialto are always bustling but Venetian crowds are different. Shoppers queue up politely and there is no screaming. (I was surprised to see signs on the produce stands saying "Don't touch," I always thought you were supposed to pinch and sniff the veg in the Mediterranean.) In the winter the museums are deserted (and freezing) and, except for the most popular, the restaurants nearly empty.

Venetians and foreigners who live there all complain about the food. It is too expensive, they say, too boring, always the same. "I can't go to Harry's Bar anymore, Arrigo will kill me, but the menu hasn't changed in years," a tall elegant Venetian of a certain age told me. I quoted him to a younger, but equally sophisticated Venetian who said, "Ah, but it is still a place to go for an occasion, and Venetians get a discount."

What the locals require of restaurant food is that it be imaginative, different, and not too expensive. All of the restaurants I was directed or taken to had handwritten menus. I wanted real Venetian food. I have eaten magnificently in other parts of Italy good Italian food in London and New York, and more than one plate of *fegato alla Veneziana*.

To find Venetian food you have to know what to look for. Claire Clifton is prepared to give away some hard-won secrets

Anyone for Venice?

Unloading fish at the market by the Rialto. Picture by Christopher Driver

From the canals to the sea

My husband is fond of *grappa* with the herb rue in it, *grappa comata*, which he considers a fine antidote to over-eating. Not, I am told, ever made with really good *grappa*. You will also find *grappa di prosciutto* made from the grapes of the popular fizzy white wine from Treviso.

*Fegato alla Veneziana* is probably the most widely travelled Venetian dish. Most restaurants in Venice serve it. Polenta and risotto are harder to find elsewhere, perhaps because they are more difficult to prepare well. Even in Venice you must order risotto for two and allow 20 minutes for it to be cooked. Order it when you order the antipasto if you want it as a second course.

The most interesting are *risotto with radicchio di Treviso*, the long thin variety, *risotto Nero*, black with inkfish, and *risotto made with any of the shellfish for which Venice is renowned*. Polenta is often served with everything, but not necessarily in tourist restaurants.

One of the most unusual and ancient Venetian dishes is fried fish delicately pickled in wine and vinegar, raisins — the "raisins of the sun" of medieval cookery — and pine nuts, still used extensively in the Middle East.

It is called *sarde in saor* when the fish are fresh sardines, and *sfogio*, or sole, which is the festival dish of the Festa del Redentore on the third Sunday in July. The festival of the Redeemer commemorates the end of the plague in 1576 and is celebrated with grand processions of lavishly decorated boats on the Giudecca canal and a fireworks display. It is brilliantly described by Mary McCarthy in *Venice Observed*.

Carl Maria Rocca very kindly told me how he cooks

sarde in saor. He bones the fish and sears the fillets, lightly floured, quickly in oil. Then he carefully fries double the weight of onions, sliced in thin rounds, cut in half, in separate oil: they must remain white. Then he cooks both onions and fish in the oil from the onions only, with water and white wine, very slowly. When they are cooked, he says, throw on a glass of wine vinegar, pine nuts and raisins. Leave for 48 hours and serve cold.

Cavaliere Peter Boizot of Piz- za Express (he was decorated by the Italian Government) says *sfogio in saor* was the inspiration for their pizza alla Veneziana. For each one sold at their restaurant, 10p is donated to the Venice Phil- antropy Fund. Since the scheme was introduced in 1976 it has raised more than £55,000.

*Sarde in saor* was on the antipasto table at a very jolly,

busy restaurant, Al Paradiso Perduto (Cannaregio 2540, Fondamenta Misericordia) as well as tender baby octopus, *polpo*, whole and sliced up in a salad with celery and parsley. We also had perfect *porchetta*, roast sucking pig, a jazz band was playing the night we were there. Sometimes it is just a piano player and they stay open late.

The pasta of Venice is *bigoli*, a wide, pale brown spaghetti usually served with *salsa* an intriguing sauce of anchovies and onions. I had *bigoli in salsa* in a modest restaurant in the neighbourhood where I was staying. They also did a good *posticcio*, a layered pasta pie with *radicchio*. The Antica Adelaide Calle Racketta 372 is cheap and cheerful and does have Venetian specialities.

Even Venice is not immune to trends. I found a shop sell-

ing multi-coloured flavoured pasta of the type which Americans went mad on a while back. Pink, yellow, beige, dark brown and green, flavoured with chocolate, coffee, artichoke, curry, tomato and oregano and mushrooms. I tried the artichoke and mushroom and of the two, the mushroom was the one with a flavour you could identify. It came from Postificio G. Rizzo, Cannaregio 5778, Saliz. S. Giovanni Grisostomo.

The best book shops to find Italian restaurant guides and general books on Venice are in the Libreria del Sansovino, San Marco, Bacino Orseolo, 84 (on the corner behind the Palazzo San Marco) and Libreria Internazionale Sanguisoglio (which has books in other languages), via XXII Marzo, 2087. The Libreria Farinetti Renata on the Calle Mandola 3717 has a good selection of

cooking books in Italian. There is one with 617 recipes for *radicchio* and several on Venetian cuisine.

If you like to bring home edible souvenirs or presents, a kilo per person of San Daniele ham from the hill town in Friuli would be a good choice and is allowed by UK customs. Connoisseurs consider it one of Italy's best and it is extremely fine and delicate. The local cheese is Asiago, from Venezia and the Friuli mountains, sold fresh and seasoned.

If you have occasion to buy bread, huge, crusty, oval loaves baked with olives or spinach are different and taste wonderful. The pastries are exquisite and many are seasonal. For example, *Giofiori*, thin, flaky rectangles subtly flavoured with almond and white wine dusted with sugar, and *frittelle*, Venetian doughnuts (the authentic kind have a hole in the middle) with pine

nuts and raisins for Carnival, and *foraccia* for Easter. The pizza with olives sold in squares in the bakeries are like a savoury bread pudding and are a good filler for hungry, foot-light sightseers to consume on the hoof.

Venetian residents I consulted agreed that the restaurants in Sheila Hale's book are impeccably described. I was taken to a very good and inexpensive one, La Zucca, S. Croce 1762 near S. Giacomo dall'Orto, which is not in the book. They had marvellous *scamorza alla griglia* (a mozzarella type cheese, grilled). The menu changes every day.

Several people mentioned that their all-time favourite restaurant in Venice was the *Fiaschetta Toscana* (Castell, 5719, near S. Giovanni Grisostomo) which is

described in the book as being an unpretentious restaurant above a wine bar has turned into a rather smart restaurant.

The hotel restaurants La Caravella and the Menace were often mentioned as being above average but expensive.

I wouldn't dream of going to Venice without spending part of at least one afternoon at Florians, the beautiful cafe which has been on the Piazza San Marco since 1720. It is expensive to have tea there, and the pastries are French not Venetian, but so is having tea in a grand London hotel which most tourists consider a must. A good reason for going there off-season is that you can enjoy comfortably in Florians for hours and sit in a window looking out on to the

Napoleon called the most elegant drawing-room in Europe.

described in the book as being an unpretentious restaurant above a wine bar has turned into a rather smart restaurant.

The prawns may have gluey lumps of spawn between their feelers. If so remove them with the body shell, pull off the prawn heads and put all these bits in a large stainless or enameled pan. Add the white fish bones if you have them.

If the cod still has skin on,

IF VENICE is unavailable, try an Atlantic fish soup from Hannah Wright's Source (Robert Hale via Jill Norman, £5.95), illustrated by Vivien Ashley.

**Vealsteak of cod and prawns:** Here is a really showy soup that is not extravagant, it is absolutely delicious but a hard act to follow. You could either make it the central dish of the meal, or the overture to something plain and simple but excellent. It keeps well overnight in the fridge but would be spoilt by freezing. Since this really is a silk purse, don't try to make it out of sawdust ingredients: make sure everything is very fresh.

**For the Stock**

Shells from 3-4 oz (90-110 g) prawns (unshelled weight), 1 lb (225 g) white fish bones and heads, 5 tablespoons fruity white wine, 1 sprig parsley, A small strip of lemon rind pared thinly, 1 bayleaf, 6 peppercorns, 1/2 pint (300 ml) water.

**For the soup**

3 very ripe tomatoes, 6 oz (175g) cod fillet, 1/2 oz (40g) butter, 1 rounded tablespoon flour, 1 small leek peeled and trimmed, The shelled prawns, 1/2 pint (150ml) single cream, Salt, Freshly milled pepper, A squeeze of lemon, 2 egg yolks (optional).

Wash the leek, finely slice it, then add it to the soup with the tomato dice. Separate the cod into big flakes, removing every lurking bone as you go. After the leek and tomato have simmered for a couple of minutes, add the flaked fish and prawns. Remove the pan from the heat. Add the cream, salt, pepper and lemon to your taste.

At this point the soup can be cooled and stored in the fridge until the next day, or served as it is. However, classic veloute is traditionally enriched further with egg yolks. Beat the 2 yolks in a small bowl with a little more lemon juice, whisk in a ladleful of the hot soup, then transfer the whisk to the pan and whisk in the egg mixture. Serve without re-boiling.

Variations: Any fresh white fish can be used in this soup, but if only the delicate fragment type the dabs or plaice are suitable, use only 4oz (110g) of fish and extra prawns.

If good ripe tomatoes aren't available, substitute 2oz (80g) of cup or button mushrooms — sauté them finely sliced in a very little butter or oil before adding to the soup with the prawns.

## On the side of the Angel

GUIDE ratings of restaurants are perishable. Poems about them may be *oere perennia*, but need annotation. The Poet Laureate's untitled tribute to the Carved Angel in Dartmouth was sent early this year to its former owner Tom Jaine, who publishes it in the latest issue of his food newsletter with the disclaimer that the restaurant continues to do very well without him.

LAUREATE RESTAURANT by Ted Hughes

The Angel carved in wood Resisted all temptation She fasted and withstood Libidinous immolation.

And an ointment of breasts Of birds and thighs of beasts.

She did not bat an eye When those two loose-mouthed harlots Claret and Burgundy Turned glass and drinker scarlet.

She barely coloured — say Chassagne Montrachet.

She once cracked when Tom Plucked Sally from the shrine as A cork out of a Dom.

This bomb among the diners Shattered the Angel — left Her not so carved as cleft.

## LETTERS

### Why the catering students did not deserve to have a roasting

PRUE LEITH's comments on catering students (March 1) are disappointing and offensive; disappointing because they are the irresponsible generalisations of someone who has not had much, if any, experience of catering colleges; offensive because they malign thousands of young people who have only to be seen at work for Miss Leith's remarks to be revealed as absurd and ungenerous.

Let me offer some generalisations which are demonstrably more accurate than Miss Leith's. Catering students stand out in colleges for their friendliness, willingness to work and their desire to serve, and please, their customers. They are clearly very interested in producing good food: a moment's thought will convince most people that no student who dislikes food, or who did not react positively to the food, would stay in college for longer than a week.

I am not a caterer but deal with caterers as an educationist. My experience with catering students over 17 years has taken me into many colleges. In the last few weeks I have been in three catering departments outside my own college as an unannounced

visitor and I have been impressed by the high standards of attitude, craftsmanship and eagerness of the students. And I am not referring to the bright and ambitious management students of Miss Leith's acquaintance (of which there are 300 at this college), but to those she characterises as "the lazy, the stupid and the undecided."

Miss Leith laments the students' ignorance of people like Bocuse and the Roux brothers. It would be nice to improve their general education and impart also a little skill in name-dropping (perhaps we could also throw in Richard Shepherd, Michael Quinn, John Tovey and Francis Coulson) but it is hardly a grievous fault not to be able to identify the leading chefs of the time. What is important is that catering students should have sound practical skills and personal qualities of a high order. The vast majority of students possess these attributes and are a credit to their colleges and the industry.

My college is to have an Open Day on May 22. If our catering students were anything like those described by Miss Leith we would not be so foolish as to risk putting them on display to the public. The fact is that Miss

Leith's article traduces a large body of students. I confess that I am proud of the students at my college but I know also that they are only representative of catering students throughout the country. — Yours sincerely, Ernest Roberts, Vice-principal, College of Food and Domestic Arts, Summer Row, Birmingham B3 1JB

**Red danger**

AN article on the effects of drinking red wine by Faye Alincow (December 28), raised some very interesting points. Allergic effects such as hay fever are caused by substances such as pollen which, by coming into external contact with the skin, nasal mucosa, eyes etc., cause the release of body histamine which then acts on neighbouring tissues like the nasal mucosa or the eyes giving the well-known allergic effects. If a substance containing histamine such as red wine is imbibed, the enzymes in the stomach and intestines are usually able to destroy this so that most people do not suffer from allergy-like after-effects.

However, a certain proportion of people do not have sufficient enzymes of this type in the gastro-intestinal tract and thus suffer from the after-effects of wine.

We examined a series of red wines for their histamine contents and found that this varied from approximately zero for some of the corrected made Chianti Classico to 20 mg./litre for some of the Swiss and Austrian reds with the Bordeaux and Burgundies continuing 1 to 10 mg. per litre.

There are ways of diminishing this such as that described by Faye Alincow, of using the clay-like material Bentonite, but it is usually not possible to acquire this information from the press.

We then invited about 40 people who suffered from these allergic effects, to use two glasses each of a Chianti Classico which had been analysed and found to contain virtually no histamine. None of these subjects suffered from any allergy-like after-effects.

It would seem useful for those who suffer from these unwanted effects to try and find wines containing little histamine. Unfortunately fig-

ures for histamine contents are not readily available. We have found that most Italian reds and also those of southern Bavaria usually contain very low quantities, but one cannot always count on this. Only the strong of heart would perhaps be prepared to try very small quantities of various red wines until they succeeded in finding some they could tolerate.

(Dr) Charles Friedman, Department of Pharmacology, Florence University, Italy.

**Clandestine**

YOUR article on Highland mairns (February 15) confirms my belief in the Forty-Five syndrome. The Scots have a long history of being the greatest of English plotters. They have developed instead a remarkable aptitude for roding into English life, at enormous profit to themselves. Scotland is now a sentimental must. The English (and Americans) come in droves to weep at Culloden Moor over the greatest of English plotters once filled; they queue up

panning at the local library to prove that the philoprogenitive Bruce is someone lodged in their family tree.

The revenge trade has flourished for years. There is not a town or village that does not have its tartan shop, and not a visitor who does not buy... Mrs Glenkinnor strides the Pass of Glencoe in her Campbell kilt, and Mr Rotherhelm from New York looks natty with his royal Stewart tie. Salmon fishing and grouse shooting cost the earth and never lack customers; Shetland sweaters are the vogue, the kiddies look sweet in their tartan dressing-gowns, and dirks and sporrans are for summer wear with kilted kilts. There are endless brochures and rings with Scottish stories, and dreadful little dolls in national dress.

The Scots now have the grand new campaign of the Highland mairns. I imagine that every island and town has its local brew and in the old days the secret of this was jealously guarded. Not only was it not exported, it could not even be bought by English visitors. I remember that once stayed at Brora where they distil the best malt I have ever drunk, but when I tried to buy it, hotels and shops were always out of stock. My landlady at last

procured me a bottle and sent it to London camouflaged in a long French loaf. It was gorgeous, and oh my God, it was strong.

This has now all changed. The English are no longer whisky-drinkers, and it has at last dawned on the Highlands that they have a splendid source of income.

All the malts you quoted and dozens more — have you tried Laphroaig? — are on the market for formidable prices: islands and villages which once guarded the secret jealously, export the nectar, possibly a little diminished in strength, but not sue me for that, I really do not know.

I am delighted, I only wish I could afford to buy it. Yet I am a little disturbed too, for where do we go from here? Short of exporting glens and lochs, there seems to be nothing left.

Charity Blackstock, Baker Street, London.

Christopher Driver is editor of Food and Drink



# Holding a Mirror up to Harrods reveals more than a few similarities



## NOTEBOOK

Edited by Hamish McRae

MR TINY Rowlands statement that the backing for the Al-Fayed bid for House of Fraser comes from the Sultan of Brunei raised very

similar issues to those raised by the takeover of the Mirror group by Mr Robert Maxwell.

When Mr Maxwell's EPCC was bidding for Monopoly-makers Waddington, the merchant bank defending Waddington, Kleinwort made considerable play of the fact that the ultimate ownership of the company was unclear.

Eventually Mr Maxwell did give sufficient detail about the ultimate beneficiaries — members of his wife's family — to satisfy public concern. That public concern, however, was fuelled not by the fact that Mr Maxwell was bidding for Waddington, but by the much more significant purchase he had just made of the Mirror group.

For the Mirror, read Harrods. The Monopoly-makers bid is perfectly reasonable in arguing that House of Fraser should not

receive any special protection from a takeover. But Harrods is arguably of comparable significance to the British national interest as is the Mirror. It is important that there should be no possible ambiguity about its ownership.

This time, however, Kleinwort is acting for the Al-Fayed brothers. The arguments it used against Mr Maxwell apply with equal force to the Al-Fayeds.

At this stage it is important to make three points absolutely clear. The first is that the accusation that the Sultan of Brunei is backing the Al-Fayed bid has been strenuously denied by the Al-Fayed camp.

The Sultan has too, and is of course a long-standing friend of Britain. The third is that it should be perfectly easy for Kleinwort to produce documentary evidence of the source of the money for the bid. It should do so forthwith.

## Barclays' ace

CAPITAL in banking is the key to power, and no one knows that better than Barclays. In spite of falling behind NatWest in the race for the biggest pre-tax profits, the bank has been able to keep the size of its rights issue.

NatWest must be left wishing that it had been as adventurous last year, when it asked shareholders for less than half as much. Barclays' chairman, Sir Timothy Bevan, freely admitted that the size was not based on what was needed but on

what the stock market could bear, and the result is a bank which now has far more muscle than the rest to push into new markets, or resist the tribulations of Latin America.

This all fits the Barclays pattern. In its move into the Stock Exchange, the bank has decided to start from day one with a large and aggressive operation in sharp contrast to NatWest's cautious purchase of much smaller jobs and broking firms.

And even though Barclays has lost the prize for the bank with the biggest pre-tax profits, it has been putting its head above the parapet in that way because the Chancellor may shoot it off — the rest of its results put it ahead.

Sir Timothy, who was also a member of the Royal Yacht Squadron, put it in Admirals' Cup fashion: Barclays missed the finishing line honours, making lower pre-

tax profits than NatWest, but won on handicap. In spite of a far bigger deduction for bad debts than NatWest, Barclays' bottom line of retained profits was higher.

## Snapshot

BARCLAYS included, it was one of those days when the City calendar of results provided a beautiful snapshot of the state of British corporate health, with profits (and a loss) from several major enterprises. A few, slightly random, points of the world output there, but raising money too. But this dominance, currently a strength, inevitably could become a weakness were the US economy to go into its widely expected decline.

Commercial Union: for one service industry the US economy is already in a form of decline. Everyone has

panies nowadays. You could even postulate that they stimulate economic growth by favouring the good firms and hurting the bad.

Actually that would surely be going too far, for the corporate sector overall still borrows more than it deposits, and growth is affected by personal borrowing too. Still, high interest rates may increase the pace of industrial change, and so increase the total efficiency of the sector.

Cadbury Schweppes: It has almost become an American company, and just selling an increasing proportion of its world output there, but raising money too. But this dominance, currently a strength, inevitably could become a weakness were the US economy to go into its widely expected decline.

Commercial Union: for one service industry the US economy is already in a form of decline. Everyone has

## Uncrowded Caz

HURRAH for Cazenove. At last one — just one — of the top London brokers has had the self-confidence to face the City revolution on its own. It is easier for Caz than most, of course, for it is protected by its extraordinary placing power among financial institutions; a position enhanced by the way the opposition has lost its independence. If this works, and there is no reason why it should not, Cazenove will find itself a much less crowded part of the forest than the bank-owned brokers clutching their fistfuls of bank-supplied capital.

## City's second largest rights issue will finance securities expansion

# Barclays makes £513 m cash call

By Peter Rodgers, City Editor

Barclays yesterday launched the City's second largest rights issue ever, by asking shareholders for £513 million — £507 million after expenses — which is almost a quarter of the bank's present stock market value. The bank also revealed an 18 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £855 million, a lower figure than NatWest on Tuesday.

The cash will make Barclays by far the most strongly capitalised of the big four British banks. Part of it will be used to back Barclays' expansion in the securities industry through the London Stock Exchange, a move which the chairman, Sir Timothy Bevan, said would cost about £130 million in cash for the injection of assets. Sir Timothy added: "Our plans include becoming a major player in the emerging deregulated securities industry."

He also indicated that Barclays might extend its new

securities business into New York and certain other major international centres if this was necessary to make the operation successful — though Sir Timothy was not talking about a cheque book. For the moment there are legal restrictions on what banks can do in the US securities industry.

Sir Timothy said the bank also plans to develop services and products for the personal and company markets involving heavy investment in technology, and it was going to continue developing internationally, including a banking licence gained last week in Australia, which will require new capital.

The rights issue is almost as large as the £543 million cost to the bank's reserves of the Chancellor's budget change last year in the tax rules for leasing business. But Sir Timothy said this was not the case for the cash call because even without it the key figure for the capital ratio — the amount

of capital backing the bank's loans — had already reached £480 for every £100 lent at the end of 1984. The higher the capital ratio the safer the bank.

This is considerably higher than NatWest and Midland, which reported earlier this week. The rights issue and the recent £155 million sale of a

stake in the Bank of Scotland

holders. The dividend is up 8.3 per cent and the bank is promising to keep the return at least the same this year for those who take up their rights.

Barclays last year charged a record amount for bad debts of £235 million — up £20 million — of which £445 million was for specifically identified problems. Of this, £178 million was for the UK operations and £267 million for the international business, including losses in Hong Kong. Sir Timothy claimed that the bank's exposure to South America was less than any of the rest of the big four.

The results show a big improvement in the UK profits from £425 million to £621 million but a drop in international profits from £234 million to £203 million. Abroad, a big turnaround in the US from £16 million to £80 million was offset by a sharp fall in South America and in the rest of the world, where areas such as Hong Kong had high bad

debts.

Sir Timothy Bevan: musclemann role

## Record £1.26bn BP profit

By James Brickman

British Petroleum yesterday announced a record profit of £1.26 billion — a 30 per cent advance on the £970 million earned after tax by the group in 1984.

Britain's biggest oil company also revealed that the size of its cash mountain more than doubled to £2.3 billion during the year.

The dollar's strong rise was the single factor affecting BP's performance in 1984. The soaring dollar value of crude easily offset the slide in world oil prices and added an extra £150 million to the group's "upstream" earnings from oil production.

BP was firmly expected last night to follow Esso's lead in Britain by pushing petrol prices up to 198.6 a gallon, the third increase this month.

Overall, the dollar's strength added £100 million to group profit after earnings from the US subsidiary, Sohio, were translated into weakening sterling. But BP's better performance outside the US meant that Sohio's contribution to group profits fell from 65 per cent to 52 per cent.

Sohio was also hurt badly by a £120 million loss from its copper mine in Utah which was acquired when BP made its last major purchase of non-oil assets several years ago.

Sir Peter said he had "high hopes" that Opec's production pact to restrict output to 16 million barrels a day would be enforced. But along with every other oil company, BP has learned to sidestep the cartel's price structure by turning to the spot market, where half of BP's oil purchases and sales are now done on the fluctuating free market.

Measured by the more conventional historic cost basis, BP's 1984 earnings after tax rose by 42 per cent to £1.4 billion. And the company was eager to add that it actually made profits of nearly £3.5 billion before tax, almost all of BP's and Sohio's profits came from upstream production, but a useful gain came from a chemical, which added £100 million to a profit of £100 million after restructuring and an upturn in petrochemical and plastics prices.

## Worst year ever for CU

By Mary Brasser

Commercial Union, Britain's biggest insurance company, lost £2.5 million in 1984, the worst year in its history. But the directors are holding the dividend payment at last year's level: against a background of accelerating recovery in the distressed insurance industry.

"The premium rate increases achieved in 1984 and planned for 1985 will produce better results this year and further progress in 1986," said chief executive Mr Cecil Harris in an optimistic statement accompanying the 1984 figures.

Higher profits from life assurance made little dent on increased underwriting losses of £439.4 million from CU's operations worldwide. The fall in sterling was responsible for nearly half the deterioration over 1983.

The double losses increased to £1.1 billion from £800 million last year, but the US lost £147 million even after investment income was added in. And profits in the UK slumped from £42 million to £12.4 million. Total profits

in 1983 from CU were £9.3 million. Most of the damage was done in the first nine months of the year.

Since September the UK business has been making profits and the US has seen substantial premium rate increases averaging 10 per cent in commercial lines but including a fall of up to 30 per cent in the rest of the year.

In addition CU has begun pulling out of the worst areas of its business in the US, abandoning special risks and reinsurance. The effect of that — both on underwriting performance and on lower costs were starting to come through to the bottom line by the year end.

"Towards the end of the third quarter and the fourth quarter we were seeing an improvement in the US results. We are now looking for an ascending scale of premium increases — average of 25 per cent rather than the 16 per cent we saw at the end of the year," says the company.

CU has also struggled through the year to strengthen

its provisions against ever rising US claims. In the first six months £54 million was added to reserves, further sums were set aside later and then at the end of the year the underwriting improvement in results was masked by the need to take another £29 million to reserves for lines like special risks where CU has pulled out of the market.

The scale of CU's US operations is set to shrink by at least 25 per cent this year to £219 million of premium income. There will be more winding out of agents and some staff reductions," says the company.

"But we are confident that the market has reached the bottom of its cycle and in 1985 there will be a distinct improvement in the US although it will not be felt until sometime in the second half of the year. The general outlook for the industry in 1985 and 1986 is more encouraging than for some years."

CU pointed out that its financial strength remains strong.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Polish debt impasse

SIGNATURE of a deal to reschedule \$12 billion of Poland's debt to Western nations will be delayed after an impasse reached over Polish demands for new credit before signing. In two days of talks that ended in Paris yesterday, a Polish delegation met 17 creditor countries with the aim of concluding the deal initially in January to reschedule repayments due between 1982 and 1984.

THE ZIFF family further tightened their control over the Kuwait Investment Office, which announced that the company had bought in 600,000 of its own shares for cancellation, effectively increasing the Ziff family stake. The move comes on top of confirmation that the Ziffs had increased their stake in the ordinary limited voting capital of the company. The 3.6 million shares bought at 20p all came from the Kuwait Investment Office.

THE INSURANCE Ombudsman has ruled that the self-regulation at arms' length, said Mrs Joan Macintosh, chairman of the council, yesterday. A model for the proposed banking ombudsman, the bureau was described by Mrs Macintosh as "true equality between the parties in dispute" and "not too big."

THE CHAIRMAN of Imperial Chemical Industries, Mr John Harvey Jones, is to be the next Chancellor of the University of Bradford. The Prime Minister, Lord Wilson of Rievaulx, will retire as Bradford's Chancellor at the end of this academic year.

APPLE COMPUTERS is stepping up its attack on the UK education market by offering schools a 30 per cent price cut on its powerful Macintosh machines, which now start at £1,244. This follows on from its 50 per cent price cut on the standard Apple PC three weeks ago, and is aimed to take maximum advantage of Acorn's recent financial distress. The government has just ended its schools micro-subsidy scheme, encouraging the US firm to leap in.

THE GOVERNMENT is to extend full exemption from empty property rates to warehouses and other wholesale storage facilities from 1982 by bringing together a variety of separate aid programmes covering microchips, computer software, fibre optics, robotics, and the like. Since then there have been up to the freeze, 4,700 applications leading to spending of £380 million on 2,800 projects.

## Dollar recovers on lack of intervention

By our Financial Staff

Trading in the foreign exchange markets quietened last night after a nervous start overshadowed by fears that central banks might launch another round of the dollar following Mr Paul Volcker's lone assault on the currency.

Dealers reported surprise that the central banks had failed to exploit the challenge to the dollar's strength on Thursday evening. The dollar quickly

recovered from its lower levels against most currencies on the lack of intervention.

Sterling, still vulnerable on further oil price instability, was again depressed and finished down 35 points at \$1.0845. The pound was slightly firmer against the index of a basket of currencies at 70.8 against 70.7 on the previous day but lost ground against the German mark to close at DM3.6185. The dollar lost a little ground to the mark at 2.4010 against 2.4200.

## Reshuffle at UPI

From Alex Brummer in Washington

One of the best-known and shortest bylines in international journalism, UPI, is set for a new lease of life following a preliminary reorganisation of its financial affairs.

The two current owners of the news agency, Mr Douglas Ruhe and Mr William Geissler, have reportedly agreed to relinquish control and make way for the man they sacked earlier this week, Mr Luis Goleas, who has been in Los Angeles putting together a rescue package.

The news agency is currently making an operating profit but is weighed down by some \$17 million of accumulated debts which are controlled by the Foothill Financial Corporation of Los Angeles, American Telephone and Telegraph, and RCA.

The wrangle over UPI's future has drawn sharp criticism from one of its largest shareholders, the Newspaper Guild, which owns 6.5 per cent of the shares and last year agreed to a 25 per cent pay cut to keep it in business.

## Fraser link with TSB

House of Fraser's drive into financial services gathered pace yesterday when it disclosed a new venture with the Trustee Savings Bank to provide customers with "one-stop shopping."

The two groups plan to install an online special department at Rackhams, the Birmingham House of Fraser store and the largest after Harrods. This will provide home-buying services covering estate agency, mortgage and insurance services, conveying

and removals. It will also offer insurance and investment services ranging from unit trusts to savings plan holiday facilities.

Rackhams, which has just been modernised for £5 million, will open the new department on May 1.

Professor Roland Smith, Fraser's chairman, said: "This relationship with the TSB is a further move by House of Fraser to strengthen its position in the growing market for financial services."

## BOC ready for China link

From John Hooper in Beijing

The British Oxygen Company (BOC) looks set to become the first overseas firm to buy a half share in a major Chinese company, BOC's chairman, Mr Richard Giordano, yesterday signed a letter of intent with a representative of Wot Song chemicals — China's largest industrial gas manufacturer — under which the two would enter into a joint venture.

As such, the deal is nothing unusual, but with the exception of a few relatively unimportant instances, all the joint ventures concluded in China up

to now have been set up by the foreign company making a contribution more or less equal to the value of the existing enterprise. BOC will simply buy 50 per cent of Wot Song.

If it comes off, it will be a landmark deal in a country which has suffered more than most from the consequences of foreign business ownership. But for the Chinese the attraction is that it would enable them to absorb a wide range of valuable technologies.

Mr Giordano would only say that a half share in Wot Song would cost his company less than £10 million. According to Chi-

nese sources, the price is within the £30-£50 million range.

Mr Giordano, Britain's highest-paid executive, is one of 10 leading industrialists and financiers visiting China as part of a delegation led by the Minister Without Portfolio, Lord Young.

Cable and wireless, whose chairman, Sir Eric Sharp, is also travelling with the delegation, will today sign agreements with the Guangdong post and telecommunications administrative bureau to supply telephone facilities in three cities north of Hong Kong.

## Home loan rate to rise

By Margaret Dibben, Money Editor

A RISE in mortgage rates of about 1 per cent is likely on April 1. Building society chiefs are meeting this morning but they are expected to postpone the decision to raise interest rates until after the budget.

An emergency meeting soon after the Chancellor's statement on March 19 could push up the cost of borrowing to a near record level.

During February, the building societies' income suffered competition from banks, higher rates and a new National Savings certificate. The inflow of money was about £450 million, well below the £823 million taken in January, and insufficient to meet mortgage demand.

Interest in house buying has been steadily rising since January but was further hit by exceptionally severe weather. However, demand for home loans has now picked up, meaning that societies will need to boost their rates to attract more funds.

Fears that the mortgage rates will remain high for some considerable time have persuaded many home owners to stay put rather than trade up. The Halifax house price index for February showed that, on average, prices rose only 0.5 per cent during the month, and the annual house price inflation rate fell for the first time in six months to 9.1 per cent.

The general manager of the Halifax, Mr David Gilchrist, said the society had now downgraded its forecast for 1985 from a 10 per cent rise in house prices to 8 per cent.

The average cost of all houses now stands at £31,039 and the price of a new house is £24,600. There are regional variations in demand for housing and mortgages, with the most active areas naturally being static.

## Shift in hitech support

By Peter Large and Maggie Brown

A stern shift in emphasis in government support for hitech industry is likely to be announced in the next few weeks — perhaps immediately post-budget. But the changes are not expected to involve big cuts in funding.

The main alterations in the support-for-innovation policy are believed to be:

(1) More emphasis on collaborative ventures, bringing together consortia of companies and university research teams in the pattern pioneered by the government's separate £250 million Alvey programme of computer research.

(2) A tightening of the terms, to try to ensure that taxpayers' grants do actually speed up a project by several years and that funds do spur additional research.

(3) A shift of emphasis in spending towards skills training, marketing techniques, and technology transfer.

There is also a possibility that, as a small counter-balance to the cuts in regional aid, the government will develop its technology in areas of high unemployment.

The new policy has emerged from a review ordered by the Minister for Information Technology, Mr Geoffrey Pattie. Last November he froze spending under the support-for-innovation banner for five months. Till then pump-priming grants for industrial R and D had been demanded by stated

## Cazenove to raise funds for 'big bang'

By Margaret Paganio, City Correspondent

Cazenove, the last major bastion of independence in the City's stockbroking fraternity, is exploring ways of raising up to £50 million of new capital.

The firm aims to raise the new capital in time to meet the "big bang" day on the Stock Exchange, when the abolition of fixed commissions will usher in a new era of fierce competition between brokers.

A handful of Cazenove's senior partners, together with external advisers, are examining several different ways to inject new funds without altering its independence. So far in the rapidly changing structure of the City's financial institutions, Cazenove has brushed off all potential suitors.

It has emphasised a total commitment to staying independent, and believes that by concentrating on its specialist areas, such as money broking and its highly reputable corporate finance department, it can carve out a profitable niche in the changing market.

Cazenove's real power rests in its formidable ability to place new issues with the institutions created by its untarnished reputation over the years. For this reason, other financial institutions are as anxious as Cazenove that the firm retains its independence through the changing markets over the next few years.

The options include raising money from the firm's return for small equity stakes, possibly in the form of long-term debt via instruments such securities.

as preference shares. Partners may be called on for more money.

Although the plan is still in the early stages, the firm has called in accountants and solicitors to study and recommend the most sophisticated and effective route that Cazenove can take.

Cazenove, which ranks about fifth or sixth in the league table of City stockbrokers, will need to set up a separately capitalised company for its money broking business under the proposed guidelines set out in the Bank of England's recent draft blueprint. Although the capital required will depend on what sort of business money brokers intend to carry out, a maximum sum of £10 million has been estimated, enough to cover basic requirements.

Out of the six authorised Bank of England money brokers, Cazenove is for second place with Shephards and Chase's money broking business. Laurie Milbank is the established market leader. The firm has no intention of applying to become a primary dealer in the gilts market because of the conflicts with its money broking business.

But the firm, which employs about 350 people and has 37 partners, will also need capital to back up its market-making capacity in the securities market. The firm, often described as the most blue-blooded of City brokers for its low-profile, has not yet decided to what extent it will become a market-maker, but it will certainly want to issue some form of long-term debt via instruments such securities.

## Foreigners took 18pc of BT issue

By Christopher Huhne, Economics Editor

Britain's balance of payments figures, which show a net outflow of private investment rising last year to £3.9 billion, reveal that foreigners bagged 18.6 per cent of the highly profitable British Telecom issue. This is higher than previously reported.

According to the Central Statistical Office, £280 million of the £400 million invested by foreigners in British shares in the fourth quarter of last year was due to allocations of the British Telecom issue, though only 200 million worth of partly paid shares was allocated to the New York market.

The preliminary figures for the balance of payments show that the current surplus in goods, services and other payments was £1.1 billion, down from £1.5 billion last year, but compared to £2,543 million in 1983 and £4,834 million in 1982.

The large deficit on trade in goods of £2,255 million, from a deficit of £1,165 million in 1983 and a surplus of £2,065 million in 1982, is due partly to the miners' strike increasing oil imports but also to a further worsening in non-oil trade, and a surplus of £1.1 billion in 1982, is due partly to the miners' strike increasing oil imports but also to a further worsening in non-oil trade, and a surplus of £1.1 billion in 1982, is due partly to the miners' strike increasing oil imports but also to a further worsening in non-oil trade.

The CSO estimates that the volume of exports of goods rose by 7.6 per cent last year, and by 7.1 per cent excluding oil, below the growth of world markets. Export of services fared even worse with only 3.2 per cent even volume growth.

## British firm in talks with Servis receiver

By Maggie Brown

The Servis washing machine company receiver, Mr Michael Jordan, confirmed last night that he was involved in detailed discussions with a British firm proposing to buy for cash the entire manufacturing plant and customer warranty business. "I am very hopeful a deal can be resolved in a week or so," he said.

There has also been an approach from Italy's Indesit, which is anxious to establish manufacturing links within Britain. Several leading UK appliance firms also turned the Darlington washing machine factory yesterday. Servis supplies about 7 per cent of washing machines sold in Britain, and is a valued brand name.

The proposal to buy the entire Servis operation was handed to Mr Jordan, of Cork Gully, late on Wednesday evening, the day the West Midlands firm employing 2,000 passed into receivership. Interested firm is not one of Britain's larger domestic appliance firms, who were sounded out early this year on whether they wanted to buy the ailing Servis prior to receivership.

Indesit UK's managing director, Mr John Malagoli, confirmed yesterday that the company is discussing with TI Creda, a major UK and several other companies a joint venture plan to make a range of dishwashers in Britain, some for export to Europe. Britain has no indigenous dishwasher manufacturing, despite the strong sales growth in the last three years.



# Clean bill of health for Tiny

Geoffrey Gibbs on the Monopolies view of a Lonrho/Fraser marriage

MATTERS are coming rapidly to a head in the long running story of House of Fraser's relationship with Mr Tiny Rowland's Lonrho group. In a report published yesterday the Monopolies and Mergers Commission concludes that a merger between the two companies "may be expected not to operate against the public interest."

The 167 page report, handed to the House of Industry Secretary Mr Norman Tebbit only last week after a nine month investigation, has been rushed out in type-script form in a move designed to reduce market uncertainty in the wake of the £615 million takeover bid for Fraser announced this week by the Egyptian Al Fayed brothers.

Under the Fair Trading Act the Secretary of State can only reverse the Commission's findings if the Commission concludes that a merger should not be allowed to go through.

As a result, Mr Tebbit is now considering a request from Lonrho to be released from the undertakings given as a result of a Monopolies Commission inquiry four years ago. The 1981 report, instigated following a £226 million Lonrho bid for the department stores combine, found that the proposed takeover would be against the public interest. Lonrho subsequently undertook not to increase its shareholding above 29.9 per cent.

Mr Tebbit intends, after consultation with Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director General of Fair Trading, to announce next week whether Lonrho is to be released from that undertaking. At the same time he is expected to give his ruling on whether the Al Fayed takeover bid is to be referred to the Monopolies Commission for investigation.

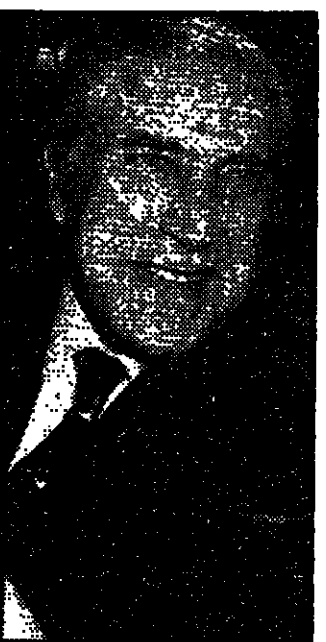
Yesterday's decision brought predictable reaction from the two main parties. A Lonrho director, Mr Paul Spicer, said the group was "delighted" at the news. "We feel — and it is a natural reaction — that we should never have been referred in the first place and should not have been turned down in 1981," he said.

The House of Fraser chairman Professor Roland Smith, by contrast, noted that the 1981 undertakings restraining Lonrho from making a bid had not been lifted and hit out at what he called the Commission's "U-turns". There were more U-turns than a London taxi driver performed in Oxford Street.

The Monopolies Commission was called in to take its second look at the Fraser/Lonrho situation at the end of May last year after Lonrho had sought the appointment of 12 new directors to the House of Fraser board.

Fraser argued that the proposals would give Lonrho a majority of 14 out of 23 directors and thus enable it to control the policy of the company. The investigation was due to be concluded at the end of November but a three-month extension was granted and the report was finally submitted to the DTI last week.

In reaching its unanimous conclusion that a merger of the two companies would not be against the public interest, the six-man Monopolies Commission team — headed as in 1981 by Sir Godfrey Le Queene, QC — decided that the effects on competition would not be significant and that there was no longer a



Lonrho's Tiny Rowland... "delighted"

significant risk of damage to Fraser through the loss of senior executives in the event of a Lonrho takeover.

At the same time the Commission found that, in view of developments in the management organisation and structure of Lonrho since the last report Lonrho could no longer be characterised as lacking an adequate system of corporate management to run Fraser. It saw no cause for serious concern about store closures or inadequate capital expenditure on the business in the event of a Lonrho acquisition.

The Commission reached its findings in spite of opposition from trade unions, House of Fraser suppliers and a number of local authorities to a takeover of the House of Fraser.

Fraser suppliers were "generally fearful" that Lonrho's lack of experience in the department store business would result in a deterioration of the existing position with the closure of some stores and that preferential treatment as suppliers would be given to Lonrho's subsidiaries.

The Scottish TUC contended that a Lonrho takeover would have a "serious negative impact on competition, consumer choice and employment. Both the shop workers' union USDAW and the Amalgamated Textile Workers' Union expressed concern about the employment implications of a takeover. USDAW argued that Lonrho's major motivation in seeking to acquire Fraser was the potential of House of Fraser to help meet Lonrho's own financial needs."

The fears expressed by the ATWU failed to convince the Commission which decided that circumstances had changed since 1981 when the possibility of distortion of competition in textiles was considered to give grounds for concern. The Commission had emphasised that it would be contrary to its policy and its interest to influence House of Fraser purchasing policy in favour of Lonrho manufacturing. It took the view that HOF's choice of merchandise "must be determined by market requirements" rather than by any need to utilise Lonrho's manufacturing facilities.

"Indeed Lonrho told us that it was its general policy that intra group trading should be at arm's length," the Commission record.

"While this does not rule out the possibility of exceptions to the general policy in particular cases, Lonrho also told us that its large textile factory at Cranlington was now operating near the limit of its capacity and that there was therefore much less pressure than there was in 1981 to find new outlets."

"In the changed circumstances that now exist we consider that if there were to be any adverse effect on competition as a result of Lonrho acquiring House of Fraser it would not be so significant as to affect the public interest."

The Commission also found there had been a change in the attitude of senior Fraser management and in Lonrho's own management structure since the 1981 report was published. It did not feel there was a significant risk of long-term disruption or damage to the management of HOF as a result of the loss of directors or managers.

Four years ago the Commission expressed concern that the absence of a fully developed system of corporate management of any established succession to Mr Rowland the acquisition of Fraser would overstrain Lonrho, involving uncertainty and risk for the group.

In the light of developments in the management organisation and structure of Lonrho it now believes that

Lonrho can no longer be characterised as lacking an adequate system of corporate management. "We accordingly do not now see the same danger of overstrain if Lonrho were to acquire House of Fraser."

On the question of store closures or disposals in the event of a takeover the Commission comments that House of Fraser's own intentions for the future "by no means exclude this possibility." The relevant question was whether under Lonrho the position would be materially different.

The Commission has expressed no view on whether the 1981 undertakings had been breached, as HOF alleged could be inferred from the Griffiths report into Fraser share dealings and from information that had become available since its publication last August.

Lonrho had "vehemently denied" that there had been any breach of the undertakings and the Commission took the view that it would be impracticable to investigate the relevant transactions in detail. HOF accepted it would be impracticable but had subsequently made a submission on the matter to the Office of Fair Trading.

"In the circumstances," says the MMC, "we express no view on whether or not what effect any breach if it were established, might have on the question whether acquisition or control of House of Fraser by Lonrho would be against the public interest."

In their evidence to the MMC the Al Fayed's — who acquired Lonrho's 29.9 per cent stake last November for £138 million — said they regarded HOF as a well managed group "which had done well in spite of difficulties and distractions arising out of pressures from Lonrho."

If the management were left alone to get on with its job and was fully supported by all shareholders, profits could be greatly increased by a number of methods including the injection of additional capital, if needed, and the "vigorous exploitation" of HOF's potential. "Particular emphasis could be put on the Harrods name through new marketing and retailing techniques," they said.

Lonrho, which has since rebuilt a 75 per cent stake in HOF, told the MMC it had sold its 29.9 per cent stake last November because of concern that the outcome of the inquiry might be adverse to Lonrho and thus result in a substantial fall in the value of the investment in Fraser.

The subsequent share purchases had not been made by reason of prior arrangement with the sellers "since Lonrho had purchased in the market and did not know in advance where the shares originated."

## Call on West to step up SA oil embargo

AGAINST a background of growing Western concern at the stability of the South African economy, a call for a stepped-up oil embargo has come from the two main liberation movements in the region.

President Oliver Tambo of the African National Congress, and Sam Nujoma of the South-west Africa People's Organisation, at a joint press conference in Lusaka yesterday urged Western governments to step up the provision of finance, capital equipment and technology for South Africa's petroleum industry and for prospecting and drilling.

Their call comes at a time when US companies are facing the strongest-ever public pressure to disinvest in South Africa with bills pending in many city and state legislatures. South Africa's foreign debt of roughly \$17,000 million represents 30 per cent of gross domestic product, and two thirds comes from this year's borrowing. South Africa's vulnerable to difficult rescheduling negotiations. Citibank of New York last month announced that, in response to public pressure, they would cease making loans to the South African government.

An unprecedented conference of senior executives from British, American, and South African companies opened at Leeds Castle in Kent yesterday to discuss, among other issues, their response to the disinvestment campaign.

The original oil embargo against South Africa was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1973. Efforts to make it mandatory through the Security Council have consistently been vetoed by the United States. In their new call, the ANC and SWAPO urge governments to take enforcement action against firms, regardless of the Security Council's inaction.

In a position paper backing up their argument, they have outlined the first detailed effort to estimate the real cost of South Africa's effort to break the embargo. Officially, the South African government says it pays premiums of \$150 to \$200 million to buy oil secretly. But this takes no account of the costs of the Sasol coal-to-oil plant, and the annual loss of interest on purchases of excess oil to go into the strategic reserve stockpile.

The real cost totals \$1,990 million a year, the ANC calculates, which is more than the annual military budget. Yet South Africa still depends on imported oil for 60 per cent of its needs, even though the government has mounted a huge conservation programme and a switch wherever possible to the use of domestic coal.

A confidential report by the South African Directorate General to a parliamentary select committee last June said that "although the crude oil market has to a large extent turned into a buyers' market, this has not reduced South Africa's economic and military vulnerability in this sphere."

Jonathan Steele

## Civil Service plugs in

THE Government is likely to install an electronic mail network linking all Whitehall departments and aimed at persuading senior civil servants away from paper and the phone.

The scheme is being pushed by the Treasury's Central Computer and Telecommunications Agency (CCTA), the Civil Service body which advises on the use of computers in government.

A plan for a pilot scheme is now being prepared for the CCTA by the computer systems company Logica, published by the Treasury yesterday, estimates the basic central cost of a general network linking 1,000 terminals at £225,000. Another network, with deeper security safeguards, is proposed for secret documents.

Logica's second report will assess the extent of how much of the cost should be recouped through greater efficiency.

The CCTA said yesterday that an electronic mail service should increase "the effectiveness and efficiency of the administrative process" as well as increasing the benefits obtained from the predicted overall investment in information technology of between £200 million and £400 million in central government over the next six years. (Information Technology in the Civil Service: Inter-departmental Electronic Mail No. 2, ISBN 0 11 530000X, HMSO £5.35).

Peter Large

## Lawson job theory doubt

ANY single explanation for the fall in employment in Britain, such as the belief that excessively high real wages are responsible, is dismissed as unbelievable in a research paper published today by the Bank of England.

Professor Dick Sargent, who holds a temporary research fellowship at the Bank and is chairman of the Economics Committee of the Economic and Social Research Council, says that factors like inadequate demand and institutional pressures in the labour market are also important.

The work, which runs counter to the Chancellor's emphasis on workers pricing themselves out of jobs, is published as part of the

Bank of England's series of academic papers. Though the views are not necessarily shared by the Bank, a decision to publish implies that they are worthy of note and discussion.

Professor Sargent notes that factors such as technological progress or a fall in the real cost of capital can allow both real wages and employment to rise, though both are difficult for policy-makers to influence.

He therefore says that those who want to be employed cannot neglect the possibility that the cost of employing them will determine their chances of a job.

"Yet, however much (workers) may pay attention to it," he concludes, "they cannot completely control

it." This was because real wage costs to employers were determined not only by workers' wages but also by the prices competitive set, and by the conditions in their markets set by the policy-makers.

A second paper which addresses the question of real wages and employment by Sir Bryan Hopkin, the former Treasury chief economic adviser, is even more unorthodoxly hostile to the Chancellor's views.

He summarised his case in Economics Agenda in the Guardian on February 6.

Employment, real wages, and unemployment in the United Kingdom, joint paper no. 24, Bank of England.

Christopher Huhne

## DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND CHEMICAL AND PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

### NATIONAL DRILLING COMPANY "ENAFOR"

INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR TENDERS RESTRICTED — NO. EX 02/85

The National Drilling Company Enafor is launching a restricted international call for tender for the supply of

LOT NO. 1: SPARE PARTS FOR DIESEL ENGINES AND CATERPILLAR UNITS

LOT NO. 2: SPARE PARTS FOR ENGINES AND POWER UNITS EMD AND GM

This call for tenders is addressed only to officially approved builders and distributors, to the exclusion of forwarding agents, company representatives and other intermediaries, in accordance with the provisions of Law No 78-02 of 11 February 1978, concerning the state monopoly on foreign trade.

Those tenderers who are interested in this call for tenders may obtain specifications from the following address: Enafor, Department Achats (Purchasing Section), 1 Place Bir-Hakeim, El-Biar, Algiers, with effect from the date of publication of this notice.

Offers drawn up in 8 (eight) copies should be sent in a double sealed envelope by registered post; the outer envelope must be anonymous, bearing no company insignia or lettering from the tenderer's company, stating only "appel d'offres international ouvert no. ex-02/85 — Lot No. 1 — confidentiel — a ne pas ouvrir — Enafor — Department Achats — 1 Place Bir-Hakeim, El-Biar, Algiers, Algeria."

The final date for submission of tenders is set at 60 days from the publication date of this notice.

Any tenders arriving after this time will not be accepted.

Selection will be made within 180 days from the closing date of this call for tender.

## DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND CHEMICAL AND PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

### NATIONAL DRILLING COMPANY "ENAFOR"

PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR TENDERS No. 01/85

The National Drilling Company ENAFOR, is launching a Public International Call for Tenders for the provision of:

— LOT No. 1: SPARE PARTS FOR DRILLING MACHINERY OF THE FOLLOWING AMERICAN BRANDS:

OILWELL, GARDNER DENVER, NATIONAL, FOSTER, ELMAGGO, FAWICK, L. C. MOORE, JOESTINE, LIGHTNIN, MARTIN DECKER, RUMBA, SHAFFER, OKEY, WABCO, TWIN DISC

— LOT No. 2: SPARE PARTS FOR OILWELL MUD PUMPS, PARTLY HYDRAULIC

— LOT No. 3: VARIOUS CONNECTING TUBES

This Call for Tenders is intended for Manufacturing Companies only, to the exclusion of amalgamations, representatives of companies and any other intermediaries, in accordance with the provisions of Law No. 78-02 of February 11, 1978, concerning the State monopoly on Foreign Trade.

Those Tenderers who are interested in this call for Tenders may obtain specifications from the following address: ENAFOR, Department ACHATS (Purchasing Section), 1 Place Bir-Hakeim, El-Biar, Algiers, with effect from the date of publication of this Notice.

Offers drawn up in 8 (eight) copies should be sent in a double-sealed envelope by Registered Post; the outer envelope must be anonymous, bearing no Company insignia or lettering from the Tenderer's Company, stating only "APPEL D'OFFRES INTERNATIONAL OUVERT NO. EX-01/85 — LOT No. 1 — CONFIDENTIEL — A NE PAS OUVRIR — ENAFOR — DEPARTEMENT ACHATS — 1 PLACE BIR-HAKEIM, EL-BIAR, ALGER, ALGERIA."

The final date for submission of Tenders is set at 60 days from the publication date of this Notice.

Any Tenders arriving after this time will not be accepted.

Selection will be made within 180 days from the closing date of this Call for Tender.

## DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND TOURISM

### NATIONAL GRAPHIC ARTS COMPANY

### NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR TENDERS FOR PRESELECTION NO. 02/85

In order to create a Word and Image Data Processing Unit the National Graphic Arts Company is launching a call for Tenders for Preselection for the supply of

Computers, Specialised Peripheral Units, Logical Elements and services relating to Word Processing (Arabic/Latin script) and Image Processing for Books and by-products. The invitation to Tender is made up of 5 lots:

LOT 1: CONCERNS GENERAL COMPUTER TERMINALS

LOT 2: CONCERNS ALL TYPES OF TERMINALS SPECIALISED IN WORD PROCESSING (ARABIC/LATIN SCRIPT) AND PROCESSING IMAGES

LOT 3: CONCERNS LOGICAL ELEMENTS USED IN WORD PROCESSING, PROCESSING PICTURES AND INTEGRAL MANAGEMENT

LOT 4: CONCERNS MAINTENANCE OF BOTH TERMINALS AND LOGICAL ELEMENTS

LOT 5: CONCERNS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING

Those suppliers interested in this Notice may collect or request Specifications from the following address: ENAG, ZONE INDUSTRIELLE, BP 75, REGHAIA — ALGERIA — in return for a payment of 500.00 Algerian Dinars.

The closing date for receipt of Tenders is 60 days from the first publication date in the National Press.

Tenders drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Specification and accompanied by the Documents demanded by current Algerian law, should be sent to: ENAG, DIRECTION PLANIFICATION (PLANNING DEPT) BP 75, REGHAIA — WILAYA DE BOUMERDES — ALGERIA.

The anonymous outer envelope must carry the following statement: "AVIS D'APPEL D'OFFRES NATIONAL ET INTERNATIONAL A LA PRESELECTION".

Tenderers will be committed to their tender offer for 120 days from the closing date.

# BARCLAYS 1984

## Strong capital resources to support the future.

The Chairman, Sir Timothy Bevan, said today: I am pleased to report pre-tax profits of £655m, which are 18% higher than last year and a record for the Barclays Group.

This encouraging result reflects a strong performance from operations in the U.K., despite a continued high level of provisions for bad and doubtful debts. Internationally, there was a welcome recovery in the United States, but South Africa had a difficult year. We have again felt it necessary to make substantial provisions, both specific and general.

The Finance Act 1984 has caused a substantially higher tax charge and so profit attributable to stockholders has hardly changed, even though pre-tax profit increased by almost £100m.

On 1st January, 1985 the merger of our U.K. and International Banks was completed. At the end of that month we sold our 3.4% interest in the Bank of Scotland for £155m.

Group capital resources now exceed their end-1983 levels even after making special provisions for deferred tax of £343m. This is the result of profit retentions and the raising of U.S.\$950m in undated capital notes and loan capital.

We believe that a further strengthening of the Group's capital base now will enable full advantage to be taken of the opportunities which are arising as significant changes take place in financial markets

throughout the world. Over the next few years we intend to support the expansion of successful operations in the U.K. and abroad and are planning important moves into the securities industry. Advances in technology will also require investment as the Group redesigns and improves its services in the personal and corporate markets.

Accordingly, we are proposing to raise approximately £507m by way of a rights issue on the basis of one new Ordinary share at the price of £1.50 per share for each Ordinary stock unit held, a substantial discount to the current market price. By following the deep discount route, not only will underwriting expense be saved, but the lowering of the price at which the Ordinary stock is traded on The Stock Exchange should encourage wider ownership.

Current trading is satisfactory and further growth is expected in the business in the United Kingdom and overseas during 1985. Although it is too early in the year to make a profit forecast, we view the future with confidence.

*Timothy Bevan*

Sir Timothy Bevan, Chairman of Barclays PLC

7th March 1985

### CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1984

(Historic cost basis)

| The Directors of Barclays PLC (formerly Barclays Bank PLC) report the following Group results for the year ended 31st December 1984: |       |       |  |
|--|-------|-------|--|
|  | 1984  | 1983  |  |
| Operating profit   | £m    | £m    |  |
| Share of profit of associated companies  | 737   | 582   |  |
|  | 87    | 77    |  |
| Total Group profit   | 824   | 659   |  |
| Interest on loan capital and undated capital notes   | 169   | 102   |  |
| Profit before taxation and extraordinary items   | 655   | 557   |  |
| Taxation   | 342   | 220   |  |
| Profit after taxation  | 313   | 337   |  |
| Profit attributable to minority interests in subsidiary companies  | 22    | 48    |  |
|  | 291   | 289   |  |
| Extraordinary items:   |       |       |  |
| Special provisions for deferred taxation   | (543) |       |  |
| Transfer from reserves   | 543   |       |  |
|  | —     |       |  |
| Surplus on reduction of holdings in Group companies  | 7     |       |  |
|  | 7     |       |  |
| Profit attributable to members of Barclays PLC   | 298   | 289   |  |
| Dividends:   |       |       |  |
| Interim  | 43    | 39    |  |
| Second interim (1983: final)   | 46    | 43    |  |
|  | 89    | 82    |  |
| Profit retained  | 209   | 207   |  |
| Earnings per £1 Ordinary stock (before extraordinary items)  | 85.1p | 84.8p |  |
| Dividends per £1 Ordinary stock  | 26.0p | 24.0p |  |

The information given in this preliminary announcement does not comprise full accounts within the meaning of Section 11 Companies Act 1981. Full accounts containing an unaudited report given by the auditors will be published on 1st April 1985, and copies will be delivered to the Registrar of Companies in accordance with Section 1 Companies Act 1976.



BARCLAYS

54 LOMBARD STREET, LONDON EC3P 3AH

150 من المال







## ...THE STORY TO DATE

**BTR's earnings per share.**

|      |        |
|------|--------|
| 1974 | +66.3% |
| 1975 | +34.8% |
| 1976 | +77.4% |
| 1977 | +20.0% |
| 1978 | +22.7% |
| 1979 | +24.7% |
| 1980 | +29.7% |
| 1981 | +21.4% |
| 1982 | +20.1% |
| 1983 | +33.0% |
| 1984 | +39.0% |



BTR PLC, SILVERTOWN HOUSE, VINCENT SQUARE, LONDON SW1P 2PL. 01-834 3848

FOLLOW THE STORY NEXT YEAR...

## FINANCIAL GUARDIAN

## Simpler would be easier

Clive Woodcock on ideas to lighten the burden of paperwork



## SMALL BUSINESS

MUCH of the debate on ways in which the burden of bureaucracy can be lifted from the backs of small firms to enable them to grow has centred on the idea of deregulation, of exempting them from certain provisions of the law.

The Government is currently studying a report of a scrutiny committee on administrative burdens, whose members were drawn from the Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise, the Departments of Health and Social Security and Employment, the Home Office and the Department of Trade and Industry.

Its recommendations have not yet been made public, and the report will obviously be considered closely by the unit headed by Lord Young, the Cabinet Minister responsible for job creation, an influence which should ensure that any radical proposals are not summarily dismissed.

One advantage is that this is an area in which the Prime Minister has taken a personal interest. In fact, announced that a scrutiny of "red tape" was to take place when she spoke to a conference of the Conservative Party's Small Business Bureau in the middle of last year.

Bureaucracy is, of course, mentioned as a problem by small business operators the world over as an international study published at last year's International Small Business Congress showed and which indicated among other things that United Kingdom govern-

ment regulations were a major problem for small firms.

In another study to be published in April in the research journal, the International Small Business Journal, the fact that other governments have not been able to satisfy the small business owner is summed up succinctly by a Dutch businessman who comments: "When you read the law, it drives you up the wall and you have no idea how to go about it."

Deregulation on its own is a course which raises fears in a number of interested sectors, with the civil service wary of the scale of disruption it might cause and trades unions and consumer bodies worried at the consequences of small firms not having to comply with the law in many areas of employment, health and safety, welfare rights, and other legislation.

Two areas on which there is unlikely to be much change are health and safety, where major relaxation of requirements must be politically unacceptable, and VAT, where the European Commission has been pressing the view that Britain is out of step with the rest of the Common Market with a relatively high threshold below which registration is not required.

Deregulation is an area fraught with difficulties, especially as it can scarcely be considered an advance to reduce the standards of expectations of either employees of small firms or the customers of small firms.

It could easily produce a situation where there were second class employees and customers who would be faced with the choice of being treated also as second class citizens or buying instead the goods of larger, still regulated larger companies—a choice which would not be in the interests of small firms.

Most small business lobbyists are, however, in favour of deregulation. A maverick view is taken by the Cheshire-based lobby group, the Forum of Private Business, who this week published the conclusions for an alternative to deregulation in some of the most contentious areas.

The Forum's chief execu-

tive, Stan Mendham, points out that small businesses mainly deal with administrative details manually rather than with computers and that in 95 per cent of cases the small business owners do the work themselves.

His solution to the problem is simplification rather than deregulation, probably by a standard set of forms produced by the appropriate government departments for use by small firms. He believes that the forms would prompt the businessman to complete the necessary information and satisfy all duties and responsibilities.

The key to the Forum's proposals is a single standard form produced by each government department for use by small businesses. For example, for employment regulations one standard new form would be issued by the Department of Employment, covering a single sheet of paper.

It would be completed for each employee by the employer and both would sign it as a legally binding document. The form would cover conditions of employment, wages, councils, employment of the young and disabled, contract of employment, statutory sick pay procedures, disciplinary and grievance procedures.

For health and safety matters one standard new form would cover all equipment and plant, safety apparatus including clothing, fire regulations and accident records, and would be issued by the Employment Department, completed by the employer and open for inspection by workers.

Current requirements of the Inland Revenue and the Department of Health and Social Security would be covered by a standard new form to be completed by the employer and would include PAYE, National Insurance, statutory sick pay records, the payment slip and declaration form.

The Inland Revenue would need to devise a new method of calculating the contribution of PAYE and National Insurance using the "Pay to date" and the employee's tax code.

On the back of the form the employer declaration certificate would be completed quarterly for each employee, avoiding what Mr Mendham describes as the "dreaded annual P35 (2)."

In all these cases there would also be a Freephone telephone number on the form which the business operator could ring for advice or clarification on any points.

The Forum is also proposing a new standard form to be issued by the Department of Trade and completed by those small firms wishing to operate as limited liability companies. The information provided would prove the applicant's financial standing so that he or she could trade at lower personal financial risk than a sole proprietor or partnership.

A requirement would be that the form would have to be signed by the company's bank and its accountant. The business would then trade under the new legal title of MLC or micro limited company.

On VAT it is proposed that all businesses of whatever size should register but that those with sales turnover of less than £100,000 a year would be exempt.

The Forum has worked out its proposals in detail, with "dummies" of the proposed forms, and has submitted them to the scrutiny committee and to Lord Young's Enterprise Unit.

It will be interesting to see whether the Government eventually goes for simplification or deregulation to achieve the objective of boosting the growth of small firms and the jobs they create.

A WORKSHOP on Options Beyond the Youth Training Scheme will be held at the National Agricultural Centre, Warwickshire, on April 2 by the Rural Training Project, sponsored by the Royal Agricultural Society of England and the Manpower Services Commission.

Further information can be obtained from the Rural Training Project, The Arthur Rank Centre, National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Kenilworth, Warwickshire.

## Commercial Union

### 12 MONTHS REVIEW to 31 December 1984

An unaudited operating loss before taxation of £72.8m was incurred for the year to 31 December. Outside the United States a profit of £74.1m was achieved and the Directors are recommending that the final dividend be maintained.

In any comparison of the operating loss before taxation with 1983, the net adverse effect of movements in rates of exchange, amounting to £24.7m, should be taken into account.

The operating loss was effectively attributable to the United States where trading conditions for all insurance companies were especially difficult. However, there should be a marked improvement in the results of our current business in 1985 as we benefit from corrective action that we have taken in the United States and from the higher premium rates already being obtained there and in the United Kingdom.

Premium income was almost static in underlying terms. Reductions in the United States and Canada were offset by growth elsewhere. The Group expense ratio showed a further encouraging reduction of over 1 percentage point.

Investment income net of loan interest showed an underlying reduction of 6%, mainly due to the continuing effect of adverse trading on cash flow in the United States. Life profits continued to grow satisfactorily and included in the final quarter an £8.5m release from the Northern Non-Participation Fund reflecting favourable investment performance over recent years. The underlying increase remained high at 16%.

In the United States experience remained very poor, particularly in commercial lines. The operating ratio for all lines was 126.8% (1983 123.9%). Strong corrective action was implemented to obtain substantial rate increases, cut expenses and reduce our portfolio by ceasing to write special risks, reinsurance and surplus lines business. We have thus fundamentally changed our operation to become a smaller, more cost effective company concentrating on personal and small commercial lines of insurance and life business. In the second half of the year we increased substantially our provision for late reported claims and, taking account of the action to reduce our portfolio, we charged an additional amount of approximately \$60m (£52m) against our result to increase claims provisions further at the end of the year. Since the end of 1982 outstanding claims provisions have been increased by 31% whilst premium income has fallen by 14%. This strengthening of provisions will reduce the effect of the drain on results from discontinued business.

In the United Kingdom the marked decline in profitability was due to intense competition and generally adverse claims experience, including the effect of weather conditions early in the year. However, progress has already been made in achieving higher premium rates and further increases will be implemented in 1985.

The Netherlands operating profit showed a highly satisfactory underlying increase of 18%.

In Canada premium income was affected by excessive competition which, together with changes in the legal environment, produced a lower operating profit.

The Rest of the World insurance activities produced a satisfactory operating profit. Investment income continued to be affected by the transfer of funds to the United States at the end of 1983.

Final dividend. In view of the financial strength of the Company and the improved prospects in the United States and United Kingdom, the Directors recommend an unchanged final dividend of 6.950p per share payable on 17 May 1985. Together with the interim dividend of 4.850p this gives a total dividend of 11.800p (1983 11.800p) per share. These dividends, including preference dividends for 1984, amount to £48.7m.

|   | 1984<br>£m | 1983<br>£m |
|---|------------|------------|
| <b>Premium income</b>                             |            |            |
| Life  | 495.6      | 400.8      |
| Non-life  | 2,159.5    | 1,884.2    |
| Total   | 2,655.1    | 2,285.0    |
| <b>Investment income net of loan interest</b>     | 275.9      | 255.4      |
| Underwriting result                               | (439.4)    | (314.2)    |
| Life profits                                      | 77.9       | 55.8       |
| Associated companies' earnings                    | 12.8       | 12.3       |
| <b>Operating profit/(loss) before taxation</b>    | (72.8)     | 9.3        |
| Taxation and minorities                           | (15.5)     | (17.4)     |
| <b>Operating loss</b>                             | (88.3)     | (8.1)      |
| <b>Realised investment gains</b>                  | 53.4       | 30.1       |
| <b>Profit/(loss) attributable to shareholders</b> | (34.9)     | 22.0       |
| <b>Earnings per share</b>                         |            |            |
| Operating loss                                    | (21.44p)   | (1.99p)    |
| Realised investment gains                         | 12.95p     | 7.31p      |
| Total   | (8.49p)    | 5.32p      |
| <b>Shareholders' funds</b>                        | £1,073m    | £1,048m    |
| <b>Operating profit/(loss) before taxation</b>    | £m         | £m         |
| United States                                     | (146.9)    | (114.8)    |
| United Kingdom                                    | 12.4       | 41.8       |
| Netherlands                                       | 42.9       | 33.8       |
| Canada  | 8.4        | 21.9       |
| Rest of the World                                 | 10.4       | 26.6       |
|   | (72.8)     | 9.3        |
| <b>Rates of exchange</b>                          |            |            |
| United States                                     | \$1.16     | \$1.45     |
| Netherlands                                       | Fls4.13    | Fls4.45    |
| Canada  | \$1.54     | \$1.80     |

This announcement does not constitute full accounts for the year. Copies of the full accounts, which have not yet been reported upon by the Auditors, will be circulated to shareholders on 21 March 1985 and delivered to the Registrar of Companies after approval at the Annual General Meeting which will be held on 15 April 1985.



**Commercial Union**  
Assurance Company plc



## John Lewis Partnership plc

### department stores and Waitrose supermarkets

## Consolidated Results\* for the year ended 26 January 1985

|  | 1984/85<br>£m | 1983/84<br>£m |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Sales</b>   | 1,206.2       | 1,072.1       |
| <b>Trading Profit</b>                                      | 78.3          | 70.8          |
| <b>Interest</b>  | 3.9           | 4.2           |
| <b>Pensions Fund Contributions</b>                         | 8.8           | 7.7           |
| <b>Taxation</b>  | 13.7          | 8.5           |
| <b>Preference Dividends</b>                                | 0.3           | 0.4           |
| <b>Surplus available for profit sharing and retentions</b> | 51.6          | 50.0          |
| <b>Partnership Bonus</b>                                   | 25.7          | 25.4          |
| <b>Retentions</b>  | 25.9          | 24.6          |

\*Abridged, estimated and unaudited.

**Sales** increased by 13% to £1,206 million. Department store sales rose by 12% to £638 million and sales in Waitrose supermarkets by 14% to £554 million.

**Trading Profit** increased by 11% to a record figure of £78 million.

**Taxation.** Higher taxable profits, the abolition of stock relief and the reduction in capital allowances, partly offset by the fall in the rate of Corporation Tax, led to a rise of £5.2 million.

**Profit Sharing.** All the equity capital of John Lewis Partnership plc is held in trust for the benefit of the workers in the business. The profits remaining after taxation, preference dividends, pensions and allocations to reserves are distributed yearly among the workers as Partnership Bonus in proportion to their pay. This year the rate of distribution will be 19% of pay (1983/4 21%).

For further details please telephone 01-637 3434 ext 6221 or write to Chief Information Officer, 4 Old Cavendish Street, London W1A 1EX.

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## CYCLING

Charles Burgess  
in CarpentrasKelly in  
for the  
Skill kill

THE PARIS-NICE stage race came alive yesterday after a day of drama on the lonely rain-swept country roads of the Ventoux wine region, east of the Rhone. At the end of the split fourth stage the pack had been shuffled and the team led by Sean Kelly of Ireland had come out on top.

Only Phil Anderson, the Australian, is left to make a real challenge to the Skill team before Sunday's finish on the Cote d'Azur and there are strong hints from the Renault camp that Laurent Fignon the two-time Tour de France winner, will abandon today.

However, it is open to question whether Kelly the Skill leader, will win his fourth successive Race to the Sun - or one of his lieutenants. Two of them are now in first and second place overall with Kelly fourth, 67 seconds off the lead.

It would be madness now for Kelly to attempt to engineer a win for Kelly that could end in disaster - a win for the team is the important thing but he is well-placed should Joel Peller, a 22-year-old first-year professional who now wears the leader's white jersey, or Willy Frenchman, Frederic Vichit, blow up today on the climb up Mount Ventoux.

The morning's 89 km race from Donzère to Bédoin had seemed unlikely to produce anything of note but in fact it turned the race on its head. With 50 km to go, the rain slashing down as we swept through Beaumes-de-Venise, unable to stop and sample their famous pudding wine, Peller made his break and built up a lead of more than a minute.

In the last five km Renault's Charly Motté managed to break out and pursue him but Vichit held him back and so did his colleague.

Peller came in 12 seconds ahead of Vichit in a sprint. All the main contenders came in nearly a minute later and others were still struggling over the line 16 minutes after that.

The Skill pair, with their bonus sprints, jumped into the top two places and remained there until the finish when they were overtaken by the Renault team.

The team time trials it is the time of the fourth man that counts and Anderson was lucky because he was only three seconds behind him. Three had not lasted the pace after the first few kilometres, one had punctured and another dropped out.

But the four who remained raced on, taking it in turns to hit the front.

The time trial proved the end, hating sensation, of Fignon's hope of winning. Renault, weakened by two abandonments and injury, finished seventh of the nine teams with Fignon not even in the first four. His ill-fated Achilles tendon has not enjoyed the damp weather.

Stephen Roche, the Irish leader of La Redoute, is another who has been hit by the weather. He was not even in the first four. His ill-fated Achilles tendon has not enjoyed the damp weather.

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GRACE AND FAVOURED... Katarina Witt on her way to third place in the short programme yesterday

Sandra Stevenson in Tokyo

Fadeev on top  
of the worldICE  
SKATING

ALEXANDER FADEV gave a near-perfect showing in a four-and-a-half minute routine crammed with technical feats, to become yesterday the third Soviet skater in the 50-year history of the World Championships to gain the men's title.

The 21-year-old astonished the 4,000 spectators at the Yoyogi National Stadium with his first move a triple lutz to triple toe loop combination. Only one other competitor, Mark Cockerell of the US, who finished eighth after a poor start, had a combination of two triples, both toe loops, which was easier.

Fadeev continued with a variety of other triple, axel, loop, flip, and a repetition of the toe loop in combination, as a display that combined only one flaw when he fell on both hands on the ice to save himself from a fall in a triple lutz.

Brian Orser of Canada, the Olympic silver medalist winner who was second last year to Scott Hamilton (US) was disappointing. He had to struggle with many of his landings but once again took second place with the US champion, Brian Boitano, third.

Skating after her rivals

Skating after her rivals

Skating after her rivals

Skating after her rivals

Skating after her rivals

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## SANDOWN

1 45 Deep Impression  
2 15 Camebelle  
2 50 Special Cargo

3 20 Claude Monet  
3 50 Rambli  
4 20 Ass Spades

JACKPOT & PLACE: All 100 bets  
TOTE DOUBLE: 2.50 & 1.50, TRIPLE: 5.10, 3.50 & 4.50  
GOING: Good to soft

1 45-LILAC NOVICE HURDLE (H: 1100) 2m 11.25 (21 runners)

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BBC-1

6.00 am Ceefax AM. 6.50 Breakfast Time. 9.20 Pages from Ceefax. 10.30 Play School. 10.50 World Figure Skating Championships. 12.30 pm News After Noon. 12.57 Regional News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One. 1.45 Chock-a-Block. 2.00 Pages from Ceefax. 2.45 Regional News (Kenneth and Scotland). 3.50 Play School. 4.10 Jockanory: Wilkes the Wizard, by Jackie Webb. 4.20 Secrets Out!!! 4.45 Newsworld Extra: The State of the World's Children. 5.00 World Figure Skating Championships. 6.00 NEWS: Weather News. 6.35 REGIONAL NEWS MAGAZINES. 7.00 WOGAN with Cynthia Lennon. American singer Sam Harris, nightclub proprietor Peter Stringfellow and author Kit Fraser. Didn't the man proclaim he was going to get different people? Can't have heard him properly. 7.40 ODD ONE OUT. Paul Daniels invites the quiz show contestants to pick the items that don't fit in. 8.10 STARKY AND HUTCH: A Long Walk Down. Short, Dirty, Rude. A comedy-style case for the unorthodox lawmen (David Soul, Paul Michael Glaser) in this re-run episode, when singer Sue Ann needs protecting from an anonymous caller's nasty threats. 9.00 NEWS: Weather News. 9.25 MISS MARPLE: A POCKETFUL OF RYE. 2. Second half of the Agatha Christie dramatisation, with Joan Hickson as the dauntless Miss Marple, now in London to Yew Tree Lodge to prevent the nursery rhyme killer from striking again. Ceefax sub-titles. 10.20 OLIVIER: I Have Done The State Some Service. And They Know! Olivier provides the quotation which gives the last part of the bland biographical tribute its title, and Olivier's astounding, blackface interpretation of the role is analysed by fellow-actors and critics including Clegon and Levin. His ability to triumph in major roles in spite of the many illnesses which would, says Jonathan Miller, "have sunk many people without trace," is also the source of much admiration: Sir Peter Hall, while crediting the National Theatre's existence entirely to the great Thespian, reminds us that he's been known to exhibit the odd fault. "Olivier's accents allow him to sound phoney to me," he confesses. 11.20 CAVE IN: Disaster merchant Irwin Shaw went for another landslide success with this 1979 made-for-TV movie set in the famous Five Mile Caverns of Yellowstone National Park, with a party of visiting bigwigs in one tunnel, an escaped killer in another, and a roof fall looming... With Dennis Cole, Susan Sullivan, Ray Milland, Leslie Nielsen. 12.55 Weather, close.

Wales: 6.00 am Ceefax AM. 6.50 Breakfast Time. 9.20 Pages from Ceefax. 10.30 Play School. 10.50 World Figure Skating Championships. 12.30 pm News After Noon. 12.57 Regional News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One. 1.45 Chock-a-Block. 2.00 Pages from Ceefax. 2.45 Regional News (Kenneth and Scotland). 3.50 Play School. 4.10 Jockanory: Wilkes the Wizard, by Jackie Webb. 4.20 Secrets Out!!! 4.45 Newsworld Extra: The State of the World's Children. 5.00 World Figure Skating Championships. 6.00 NEWS: Weather News. 6.35 REGIONAL NEWS MAGAZINES. 7.00 WOGAN with Cynthia Lennon. American singer Sam Harris, nightclub proprietor Peter Stringfellow and author Kit Fraser. Didn't the man proclaim he was going to get different people? Can't have heard him properly. 7.40 ODD ONE OUT. Paul Daniels invites the quiz show contestants to pick the items that don't fit in. 8.10 STARKY AND HUTCH: A Long Walk Down. Short, Dirty, Rude. A comedy-style case for the unorthodox lawmen (David Soul, Paul Michael Glaser) in this re-run episode, when singer Sue Ann needs protecting from an anonymous caller's nasty threats. 9.00 NEWS: Weather News. 9.25 MISS MARPLE: A POCKETFUL OF RYE. 2. Second half of the Agatha Christie dramatisation, with Joan Hickson as the dauntless Miss Marple, now in London to Yew Tree Lodge to prevent the nursery rhyme killer from striking again. Ceefax sub-titles. 10.20 OLIVIER: I Have Done The State Some Service. And They Know! Olivier provides the quotation which gives the last part of the bland biographical tribute its title, and Olivier's astounding, blackface interpretation of the role is analysed by fellow-actors and critics including Clegon and Levin. His ability to triumph in major roles in spite of the many illnesses which would, says Jonathan Miller, "have sunk many people without trace," is also the source of much admiration: Sir Peter Hall, while crediting the National Theatre's existence entirely to the great Thespian, reminds us that he's been known to exhibit the odd fault. "Olivier's accents allow him to sound phoney to me," he confesses. 11.20 CAVE IN: Disaster merchant Irwin Shaw went for another landslide success with this 1979 made-for-TV movie set in the famous Five Mile Caverns of Yellowstone National Park, with a party of visiting bigwigs in one tunnel, an escaped killer in another, and a roof fall looming... With Dennis Cole, Susan Sullivan, Ray Milland, Leslie Nielsen. 12.55 Weather, close.

BBC-2

6.30-7.25 am Open University. 9.25 News from Ceefax. 9.30 Daytime on Two: Science Topics. 9.52 Look and Read. 10.15 Mathscore Two. 10.35 Exploring Science: Stars. 11.00 Look and Read Again. 11.22 Geography: The Iron and Steel Industry. 11.44 Going to Work. 12.5 pm Making the Most of the Micro. 12.50 Sorry Mate, I Didn't See You. 12.55 You Can't See the Wood... 1.20 Pages from Ceefax. 1.30 Around Scotland. 2.00 Scene. 2.30 English File. 2.50 Pages from Ceefax. 4.15 Monkey. 5.00 The Secret Garden (4). Ceefax sub-titles. 5.30 NEWS with sub-titles; weather. 5.35 CHARLIE BROWN. Cartoon. 6.00 MICRO LIVE. Last edition of the series, looking at new applications for the laser disc, reviewing portable and lap-held computers, and reporting on the BBC's experiments with live sub-titling for the hard of hearing. 6.50 PHIL SILVERS as Sgt. Bilko. 7.15 ORS 85. Billy Bragg is guest presenter this week with live music from The Alarm. 8.5 NATURE. The wildlife magazine tells the extraordinary story of the bug that helped boost the Malaysian economy by a billion dollars. 8.35 GARDENERS' WORLD. From Barnsdale, where Geoff Hamilton reports on the veg successes in the organic plots, and admits that the carrots came a cropper. 9.00 JUST ANOTHER DAY. Soho. John Pitman goes behind the scenes in London's naughty quarter to meet some of the 6,000 who live there — like the elderly sisters who preferred the old days when it was "nice naughty" — and others who go there to play their sometimes unexpected trades. 9.30 THE NEW PACIFIC. Shadow of The Rising Sun. Last programme of the series focuses on the economic success in recent years of the Asian Pacific peoples — success rooted in the Confucian virtues which have paradoxically militated against it in one respect. The Japanese have never been ones for brahmines — but if they start having them, says a Western expert, "it will be an electronic Pearl Harbor." 10.30 NEWSNIGHT. 11.15 Weatherview. 11.20 QUAI DES BRUMES. The Marcel Carne season opens with the director's atmospheric thriller set on sinister, foregrounded Jean Gabin on the run with tragic gamine Michele Morgan. 12.55 Close.

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ITV London

6.15 am Good Morning Britain. 9.25 News Headlines. Schools. 9.30 A Place to Live. 9.47 How We Used to Live. 10.9 Ways with Words. 10.28 The German Programme. 10.48 Insight. 11.30 My World. 11.22 Middle English. 11.30 Modern China. The Heart of the Dragon. 12.0 World Figure Skating Championships. 1.0 pm News. 1.20 Thames News. 1.30 Film: The Hypnotist. 1987 psycho drama with Roland Culver. Patricia Roc. 3.0 Gems. 3.25 News Headlines. 3.30 Sons and Daughters. 4.0 Rainbow. Oracle sub-titles. 4.20 The Moomins. 4.25 How Dare You! Oracle sub-titles. 4.50 FreeTime. 5.15 World Figure Skating Championships. 5.45 NEWS: weather. 6.00 THE 6 O'CLOCK SHOW with Michael Aspel and team. 7.00 THAT'S MY BOY. Surprise. Surprise. Last episode of the hit sitcom, with Mollie Sugden as the doughty dowager, now joining the young folks for the village top. Oracle sub-titles. 7.30 THE PRACTICE. More problems for the health centre's poor Dr. Armitage, who's being blamed for a patient's breakdown, and worrying himself sick about a friend's accident. Oracle sub-titles. 8.00 DEMPSEY AND MAKEPEACE. Blind Eye. Michael Brandon, Glynn Barber as the off-beat cops, trying to rescue a lad who's been kidnapped to stop his father talking. Oracle sub-titles. 9.00 THE GENTLE TOUCH. Right of Entry. Jill Gascoine as the earlier model copette in a repeated crime yarn which finds Inspector Maggie having problems at home with her straggly son. Oracle sub-titles. 10.00 NEWS AT TEN; weather. London news headlines. 10.30 THE LONDON PROGRAMME. Is London's large homosexual community suffering from the AIDS panic? Tonight's report looks at disturbing cases of gays being banned from pubs, losing their homes, and finding their jobs threatened. 11.00 SOUTH OF WATFORD. Ben Elton plunges into the plush world of high society parties. 11.30 SOYLENT GREEN. Charlton Heston, Edward G. Robinson and La Linne. 1973 SF movie set in a New York so overcrowded that the government has had to resort to desperate measures to provide for the populace. 12.15 FREEZE FRAME. John Cougar. The American singer interviewed at his Beverly Hills home. 1.40 NIGHT THOUGHTS with Frank Field MP. Closedown.

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Channel 4

2.30 pm Master Bridge. 3.0 Winter Sunlight. Drama serial. 4.0 Built in Britain. 4.25 Countdown. 5.0 The Addams Family. 5.30 THE TUBE. 7.0 CHANNEl FOUR NEWS; weather. 7.30 M15'S OFFICIAL SECRETS. You've read all about it, and now that the Government has announced it won't be prosecuting anyone, the timid souls on the IBA have belatedly agreed that you should be permitted to see it on the screen. It's said to be the original 2020 Vision programme, unabridged, uncensored, and introduced by Hugo Young. 8.30 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY, according to Max Hastings. 8.45 RIGHT TO REPLY SPECIAL. Assuming, of course, that technical hitches don't prevent the screening of the M15 programme, the TV issues raised by the rumour will be discussed in this special edition of the viewers' reaction slot. The political issues will be taken up next week. 9.30 IN SEARCH OF PARADISE. Big Sur and Little Gardens. Penultimate programme of the repeated gardens series looks at the great variety of today's gardens, from the great public parks to the small suburban plot. 10.00 CHEERS. Sam Turns The Other Cheek. Ted Danson as the sitcom boss, making a mistake over a date and inadvertently ending the relationship with a bang. Actually, a gun shot, if you see what I mean. 10.30 FAMILIES. Mavis Nicholson concludes the series by inviting the families in the studio group to say what they have learned. 11.15 WHO'S THAT KNOCKING AT MY DOOR? Some five years before he hit the big time with Mean Streets, shown on C4 last week, Martin Scorsese made his feature debut as a film student with this 3-band-w drama, set like its successor in New York's Little Italy, where Scorsese himself grew up. It also has the same lead actor in Harvey Keitel, here playing a streetwise, macho young Italian-American torn between his Catholic upbringing and his obsessive love for a college girl (Zina Bathune) from a more sophisticated and permissive background. 1.0 Close.

SAC: 1.0 pm Countdown. 1.30 Farming on 4. 2.0 Flanesti. 2.20 50 Lon Goch. 2.35 Hyn 4. 2.45 Ewyl. 3.5 Years Ahead. 3.50 Making the Most of the Micro. 4.00 The Heart of the Dragon. 4.15 Hanner Ayr Fwy. 5.00 The Tube. 7.00 Countdown. 7.30 Corau. 8.00 Pobel Y Cwm. 8.30 Yr Yd yn Le. 9.15 Cheers. 9.45 The Dismissal. 10.45 Newhart. 11.10 Assaulted Nuts. 11.40 Dividd.

Radio 1

6.0 am Adrian John. 7.0 Mike Read. 9.0 Andy Peebles. 12.00 News. 1.00 Des. 2.00 Mark Pope. 4.0 Select-a-Disc with Peter Powell. 5.0 Newbeat. 5.45 Roundtable from the Ideal Home Exhibition. 7.0 Andy Red. 10.0-12.0 midnight Friday Rock Show.

Radio 2

4.0 am Colin Berry. 5.0 Ray Moore. 5.5 Ken Bruce. 10.30 Jimmy Young. 1.5 pm David Jacobs. 2.0 Gloria Hunniford. 3.30 Music all the Way. 4.0 David Hamilton. 6.0 Paul Heiney. David's guest. 7.00 The Prince of Wales. 8.0 Friday Night is Music Night. 9.15 The Organist Entertains. 10.0 Listen to Les. 10.30 Stagers. Ruth Ewing. 11.0 Stuart Hall. 12.0 Peter Dickinson. 3.0 Big Band Special. 3.30-4.0 String Sound.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News; Morning Concert. 7.00 News; The World's Composer: Shostakovich — The Final Years. Four verses of Captain Lebedevkin (Yevgeny Nesterenko; piano). Yevgeny Shenderovich; piano. Viola Sonata (Pyotr Druzhinin; viola). Michael Muntanyan, piano. Debussy: Preludes, Book 2. Susan McGowan (piano). 10.30 Langham Chamber Orch / Christophor Adey. Malcolm Arnold: Sinfonietta No. 1. Gareth Williams: Elegy for Strings. Grace Williams: Sea Sketches. 11.10 Western and Chinese Art Songs: Liang Ning (mezzo), Michael Duxsek (piano). Schumann: Liederkreis Op. 39; trad. arr. Jiang Ding Xian: Kanding Love Song; Huang Zi: Wishes of the Rose. 11.50 BBC PO / Downes. Martinu: Cello Concerto (Miles Sadi); Bartok: Concerto for Orchestra.

1.0 News; Albert Strang Quartet. Beecham: Quartet Op. 131. 1.45 Dartington Summer School 1984: Mitsuko Uchida (piano). Mozart: Sonata in B flat; Schubert: Sonata in A minor. 2.45 Tchaikovsky: Festival Overture on the Danish National Anthem; Symphony No. 2 (Little Russian); Fantasy on German Songs and Juliet (LSO/Gordon Simon). 4.0 Choral Evensong from Portsmouth Cathedral. 4.55 News; Mainly for Pleasure. 5.00 News; Elegy for William Waterson. Sor: Gran Solo Op. 14; Turina: Fantasia; Sevillana; Arthur Walls: Sonata. 7.0 A Sitwell Sequence (1985): Music by Benjamin Britten, poems by Edith Sitwell. Neil Mackie (tenor), Richard Watkins (horn), John Blakely (piano), Peter Pears (treble). 7.30 Pierre Boulez conducts the BBC SO. Boulez: Rituel — in memoriam Bruno Maderna. 7.55 Mirrors of Health and Sickness. The Sexual Dilemma. 8.15 Boulle part 1: Stravinsky: Symphonies of wind instruments (1920 version); Webern: Passacaglia Op. 1; Variations Op. 30; Berg: Three Pieces Op. 6. 9.30 True to Terror: 1. The Promising Baby of Divorced Parents, in the first of three conversations on the powers of the UN, Michael Charlton talks to William Urrahart, Under Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs. 10.15 Telemann and his Godson. C. P. E. Bach: Harpsichord concertos in C minor and G major (Bob van Asperen Melaine St. Julien; harpsichord). Quartet in G major (Barthold, Sigwald and Wieland Kuiken, with Robert Kohnen). 11.00 The Beethoven Piano Sonatas: Op. 2 No. 1; Op. 27 No. 1; Op. 27 No. 2 (Moonlight). Alfred Brendel. 11.57 News.

5.55 Shipping Forecast. 6.00 News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.25 Prayer for the Day.

6.30 Today including 7.0, 8.0, 9.0 News. 8.35 Yesterday in Parliament. 9.0 News; Desert Island Discs. 9.45 Feedback. BBC bigwigs respond to your comments. 10.0 News; International Assignment. 10.30 Morning Story: The Kindness of a Jail Note. 10.45 Daily Service. 11.0 News; Married to Music. Conversation with Lady Walton, widow of composer Sir William Walton. 11.45 A Suitcase and a Star. John Parkinson endures a fight to Australia. 12.0 News; You and Yours. 12.27 Funny You Should Sing That. 100 years of the British comic song. 1.0 News by Kingsley Amis. News. 1.40 The Archers. 2.0 News; Woman's Hour celebrates International Women's Day. 2.30 News; Cousin Bazille by Eca De Queiroz. Drama serial (5). 4.0 News; Going Places. Transport mag. 4.45 Story Time. Miss Mole by E. H. Young (5). 5.0 PM News Magazine. 6.0 The Six O'Clock News. 6.00 News; The World's Composer: Shostakovich — The Final Years. 7.00 News; The Archers. 7.20 Pick of the Week. 7.30 Law in Action. Legal issues of the week. 8.45 Any Questions? From Bracknell, with Cecil Parkinson, Kate Linsell, Tony Benn, and Leslie Cook. 9.45 Kaleidoscope. Arts magazine. 10.15 A Book at Bedtime: The Green Man by Kingsley Amis (5). 10.30 The World Tonight. 11.0 Today in Parliament. 11.15 The Financial World Tonight. 11.30 Week Ending. Funny side of the news; shipping.

VHF: 11.0-12.0 Schools. 1.35 pm Listening Corner. 2.5-3.0 Schools. 11.0-12.0 Study on 4. 12.0-1.0 am Schools Night. Time Repeating.

Wales (450m): 6.00 am Radio 2. 6.10 am Radio 1. 6.20 am Radio 3. 6.30 am Radio 4. 6.40 am Radio 5. 6.50 am Radio 6. 7.00 am Radio 7. 7.10 am Radio 8. 7.20 am Radio 9. 7.30 am Radio 10. 7.40 am Radio 11. 7.50 am Radio 12. 8.00 am Radio 13. 8.10 am Radio 14. 8.20 am Radio 15. 8.30 am Radio 16. 8.40 am Radio 17. 8.50 am Radio 18. 9.00 am Radio 19. 9.10 am Radio 20. 9.20 am Radio 21. 9.30 am Radio 22. 9.40 am Radio 23. 9.50 am Radio 24. 10.00 am Radio 25. 10.10 am Radio 26. 10.20 am Radio 27. 10.30 am Radio 28. 10.40 am Radio 29. 10.50 am Radio 30. 11.00 am Radio 31. 11.10 am Radio 32. 11.20 am Radio 33. 11.30 am Radio 34. 11.40 am Radio 35. 11.50 am Radio 36. 12.00 am Radio 37. 12.10 am Radio 38. 12.20 am Radio 39. 12.30 am Radio 40. 12.40 am Radio 41. 12.50 am Radio 42. 1.00 am Radio 43. 1.10 am Radio 44. 1.20 am Radio 45. 1.30 am Radio 46. 1.40 am Radio 47. 1.50 am Radio 48. 2.00 am Radio 49. 2.10 am Radio 50. 2.20 am Radio 51. 2.30 am Radio 52. 2.40 am Radio 53. 2.50 am Radio 54. 3.00 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## Reform Group criticism thrown at PM

By Ian Aitken,  
Political Editor

The Prime Minister was yesterday confronted with a highly critical analysis of her Government's policies in which she was accused of burning Britain's seed corn rather than merely eating it.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Opposition leader, faced the Prime Minister with this judgement from the Tory Reform Group in the Commons. He reminded her that the group's chairman was her own Energy Secretary, Mr Peter Walker.

The report was published by the group yesterday as a curtain-raiser to the forthcoming budget. It called on the Chancellor to extend the Youth Training Scheme, spend substantially more on public investment, and index the threshold to basic rate income tax to prevent the poor being sucked into tax by rising inflation.

But the essence of the report was that the Government's overall policy was misguided. It asked: "What kind of public housekeeping is it to spend millions on bed and breakfast homeless families instead of employing unemployed building workers to refurbish empty premises?"

It pointed out that large sums had been found for the Thames barrage, although many other areas were now at risk from urban sea defences.

Meanwhile, Britain's leaking water pipes and crumbling sewers had become legendary as examples of financial waste coupled with a threat to public health.

Against this background, the Government was cutting back on research and development in higher education.

The group told the Chancellor that increased public sector borrowing, provided it was on a limited scale and for specific purposes, was entirely justified.

Most comparable countries had higher public borrowing than Britain, without producing increased inflation or interest rates at our levels.

Cabinet members as well as Tory backbenchers report a staggering increase in the number of letters from constituents on subjects like the rumoured intention of the Chancellor to tax either pension contributions or pension payments.

A rather smaller postbag is reported on matters like the possibility of extending VAT to newspapers, fuel and transport — a volume closely followed by representations about the prospect of VAT on children's clothing and food.

But it is clear that ministers suspect some kind of coordination in the campaign.

## CEGB head seeks Sizewell go-ahead as 26-month inquiry ends

### Nuclear power case 'made by miners' strike'

By David Fairhall

Mr Arthur Scargill has made the case for more nuclear power more dramatically than the Central Electricity Generating Board could ever have done, its chairman, Sir Walter Marshall, said yesterday.

He was speaking at the Snape Maltings in Suffolk on the final day of the public inquiry into the CEGB's plan to build an American-style pressurised water reactor (PWR) nuclear power station at Sizewell.

He said he was struck by the coincidence that two challenges to the CEGB — the miners' strike and the 26-month inquiry — should end within a matter of days.

But the board had managed to keep the lights on during this strike by running its nuclear plant continuously and burning oil, and he could see no reason why the Government should not give Sizewell the go-ahead.

"After all this time," Sir Walter said, "please let us get on with our real job — to look after the consumers by providing electricity at the cheapest rate we can."

But objects who later called their own press conference, did not accept that building PWRs was the way to minimise costs.

One of the board's most awkward moments during the inquiry came only a few weeks ago when its Scottish counterpart claimed that a programme of British-designed advanced gas-cooled reactors (AGRs) would save several hundred million pounds compared with American reactors.

The AGR's former champion at the inquiry, the former electricity board manager, Mr Ronald Round, representing the Norfolk Labour Party, pointed out yesterday that since the Three Mile Island accident, the Americans had stopped ordering water cooled reactors and were researching into advanced gas-cooled systems.

They were happy to export their failure to Britain, he suggested, while they caught up with the technology Britain was abandoning.

Sir Walter conceded that the Americans "have got themselves into a complicated mess," but when that was sorted out, he believed they would start building PWRs again.

The British AGRs had attractive features, he said, but they were difficult to build and to operate. A PWR was still the best buy and had been cleared for safety by the Nuclear Inspectorate.

As Sir Walter spoke, a small group of anti-nuclear demonstrators paraded their banners behind him against a backdrop of Suffolk tidal marshes.

One showed him in beaming caricature, waving a Soviet American flag and labelled Mr PWR.

Another called on the planning inspector, Sir Frank Layfield, to save our children by saying no.

The objects, representing both local groups and national organisations like Friends of the Earth, the Town and Country Planning Association, CND and the Council for the Protection of Rural England, did not share Sir Walter's hope that future inquiries would deal only with specific siting questions, rather than the broader issues of nuclear technology. (He reminded his press conference that the Bradwell nuclear inquiry lasted only 2½ hours.)

While conceding that this inquiry had been exhaustive, they still felt aggrieved by a "colossal disparity in resources" between the two sides.

Whatever the inspector recommended about Sizewell, which they feared was unsafe as well as uneconomic, they were concerned that he should not open the way to a whole series of identical stations.

Power in the Maltings pot, page 15

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Power in the Maltings pot, page 15



Sir Walter Marshall speaking at the inquiry while Friends of the Earth register their own opinion outside. Picture by Garry Weaver

## Miners to vote on levy for sacked strikers

Continued from page one

get used to the idea that the strike was over.

Some of them, moreover, referred bitterly to the legacy left by the strike and claimed that the NCB was adopting tough attitudes at local level by unilaterally abrogating agreements and giving strikers the worst jobs.

This was one of the reasons for yesterday's decision by the NUM executive to resume local links with the board which were severed during the strike.

NUM leaders argued that these jobs have been taken over by working miners' committees and that they are therefore anxious to re-establish the role of the union.

Mr Scargill made an oblique reference to the developments when he confirmed that steps had already been taken to consult the membership on financial arrangements for people who he said had been victimised.

He warned that there would be no peace in the industry until they were reinstated. According to the NCB yesterday, the number of reinstatements of the 718 dismissed at present totals 11.

The situation throughout the industry continued to improve yesterday. More than 86 per cent of miners were at work, still including 2,400 in Scotland, where near normality will be reached by Monday and 1,700 are in Kent. The rest are mainly in Yorkshire.

The board said yesterday that the widespread and orderly return to work was a clear indication that the miners wanted the dispute brought to an early end.

Mr Scargill yesterday maintained his attack on the NCB and said the union would not call off its overtime ban.

He indicated that the NUM would be meeting the pit deputies union, Nacods, to discuss joint consultations for the future. The NUM was willing to abide by the modified colliery review procedure since it had originated the idea.

Mr Scargill returns to the campaign trail this weekend with meetings in West Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire.

The South Wales NUM, which was absent from yesterday's meeting of the executive, is expected to apologise for its contempt of court today and ask for its assets to be returned.

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## Rate-cap rebels suffer early reverse

Continued from page one

ity of Labour councillors for taking a grave risk for their personal finances and future political career in pursuit of their claim that Mr Jenkins's rate limits were arbitrary, unreasonable and an unacceptable technique for central government to force spending cuts on local areas.

The ILGA education committee, which included co-opted members, voted by a clear majority in the morning to refuse to fix a rate.

But at the full meeting of the authority, from which co-opted members are excluded, a more complicated position emerged.

The authority, Labour leadership, supported by Mr Livingston, who is a member as well as leader of the GLC, said they were concerned that a no-rate resolution might be subsequently overturned by the GLC, which might be told it was legally obliged to set ILGA's finances back on a legal course.

In that case, the GLC (where the Labour majority is much smaller) might find itself unwittingly forcing £24 million of cuts on the inner London education service.

An amendment was moved by a Labour backbencher, Mr Alex Mackay, to adjust the ILGA spending estimates to eliminate the need for cuts if the legal maximum precept were set.

He proposed doing this by raising the building fund and reviewing the amount that ILGA pays to the GLC for County Hall rent and services.

The amendment was supported by Mr Frances Morrell, the ILGA leader, Mr Steve Bundred, its finance chairman, and by Mr Livingston.

They made it clear, however, that Labour members should still vote to refuse to fix a rate and that Mr Mackay's amendment was useful only to provide a fall-back position if the authority's edicts were later overturned by the GLC.

If the leadership line had been followed, all yesterday's motions would have been voted down and ILGA would have been heading for illegality, with councillors at risk.

In the event, enough Labour councillors joined with Conservatives and Alliance members to put the amended budget and hence through by a majority of 27 votes to 20.

This leaves ILGA within the law, but planning to make no cuts in jobs or services.

The voting on Mr Mackay's amendment revealed a division of feeling within the Labour left between those like Mrs Morrell and Mr Livingston, who believed that the ultimate priority was to protect services, and others who felt that the need to resist rate cuts would eventually mobilise a confrontation with the Government in which councillors and unions would unite to force Mr Jenkins to back down.

Elsewhere in the country, the lower-tier district councils were pressing ahead with their less immediately risky tactics of Sheffield city council voted by 59 to 26 not to set a rate and Leicester took the same line by 39 to 15.

Labour's Basilston passed a rate within its rate-cap limit, but its leader, Mr Harold Tinworth, said that essential services would be protected from cuts. The council's budget is presently £800,000 above its income, but Mr Tinworth said his intention was to close the gap and avoid an illegal deficit.

West Yorkshire, an upper tier council which is not rate-capped, voted for a 2.8 per cent rate increase and a legal budget.

## Thatcher rules against wider tapping inquiry

By James Naughtie,  
Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister's robust clear yesterday that she is determined to resist any investigation into telephone tapping and surveillance by MI5 which goes wider than the report published this week by Lord Bridge, chairman of the Security Commission.

Mrs Thatcher told the Commons that Lord Bridge had fully discharged his responsibility in examining the warrants approved by ministers for telephone tapping and rejected Opposition appeals for an inquiry with broader terms of reference.

She said: "It is absolutely vital that we do nothing to undermine the security services and the freedom on which this country depends."

The Prime Minister's robust defence of the inquiry into the allegations made in the Channel 4 documentary on MI5, which will be shown tonight, failed to quell the chorus of protests at the terms of reference given to Lord Bridge and the prospects for a new system of oversight for the security and intelligence services.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, asked again for a postponement of the second reading of the Interception of Communications Bill, due next Tuesday.

He claimed that "proper answers" still had to be given by ministers and said the report by Lord Bridge was a clumsy attempt by the Government to dodge issues of real concern.

Mrs Thatcher defended the Bridge Report as a full account of the performance of the ministers in issuing warrants for phone tapping and said that it had been recognised by her predecessors that what could be said in the Commons was very limited, for security reasons.

She said that when she had been the Leader of the Opposition, she had supported a Labour government in such matters. "I accepted the practices and traditions which governed these services," she said.

Next week's debate on the Interception of Communications Bill, which sets up a tribunal to hear complaints from aggrieved parties, will give the opposition parties an opportunity to develop their arguments for more penetrating inquiry than that sanctioned under the terms of reference given to Lord Bridge.

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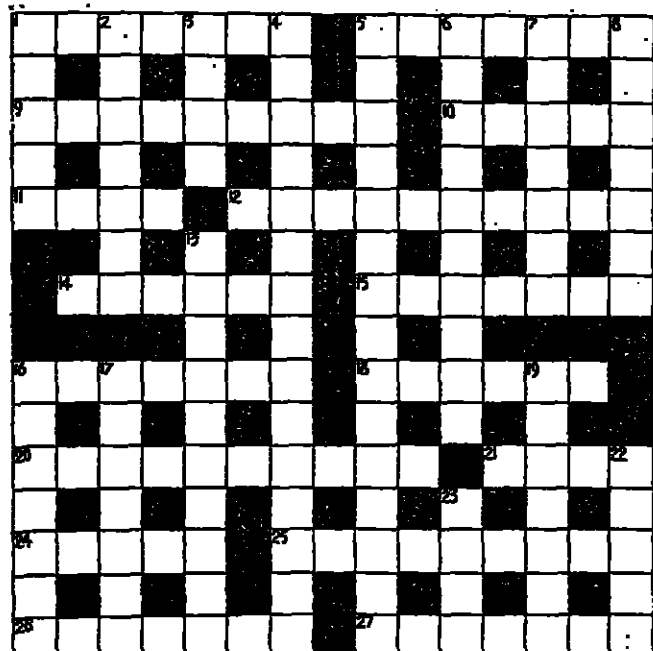
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## GUARDIAN CROSSWORD 17,179

CUSTOS



- ACROSS**
- Periodical, possibly late, producing wonderful results (7)
  - Unavoidable substance, soft, lay about the street (7)
  - Ejects dog and sidles off (9)
  - A crusty dish, we hear, for each musician (8)
  - In this way a king becomes a hard drinker (4)
  - They're vibrating with data available for immediate use (2, 3, 5)
  - The last defender's objective, that is (6)
  - Chap absorbing a poem is possibly Japanese (7)
  - Only nurse will find cigarette-stub, perhaps (4-3)
  - Apprehensive, when embraced by top-class old marshal (6)
  - Fundamental, precise, with yellow face (10)
  - Dandy, a failure at finance, ultimately (4)